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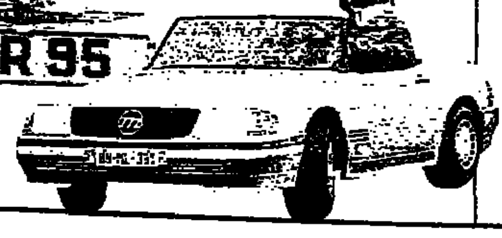
THE TIMES

40p

No. 65,452

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16 1995

WIN A CHILD'S MERCEDES FOR CHRISTMAS



Worth £3,500

Puppy love

Dalmatians, Disney and 101 problems
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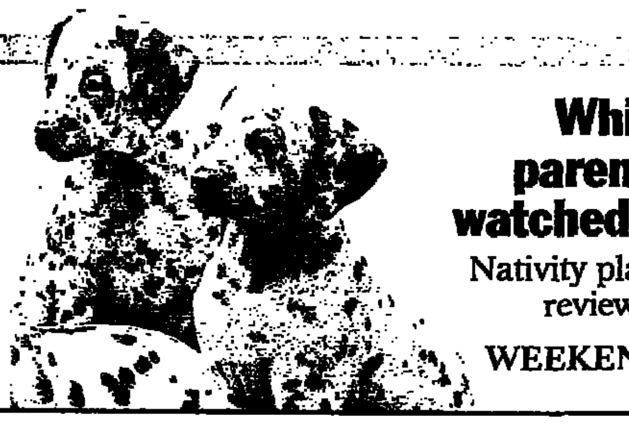

While parents watched...

Nativity plays reviewed
WEEKEND

Complete guide to Christmas and New Year TV and radio

in the 56-page *VISION*

The 'Euro' is born with a whimper

Major: "naming baby before the pregnancy"

FROM GEORGE BROCK AND PHILIP WEBSTER IN MADRID AND NICHOLAS WOOD IN LONDON

EUROPEAN leaders yesterday agreed to call their proposed single currency the Euro — a name nobody really liked and whose main virtue is that it is not "too French" for the Germans.

John Major — who described making the decision at all as like naming the baby before the pregnancy — argued in vain for something more dignified and with more "history", such as the crown, the shilling or the florin.

France had wanted the ecu and the Benelux countries backed the florin, but in the end Helmut Kohl prevailed and the leaders half-heartedly plumped for what Mr Major described as the "uninspiring" lowest common denominator.

They also confirmed that the Euro would be born on January 1, 1999, when exchange rates in countries whose economies pass the Maastricht Treaty's tests will be locked. National currencies will disappear from those states in June 2002.

Mr Major's warning that rushing into a single currency could plunge Europe into chaos was politely ignored, but Britain was granted a deeper study of the impact of a handful of countries introducing a new currency without the rest.

Kenneth Clarke later flatly rejected Euro-sceptic demands for a pledge ruling out British membership during the next Parliament and suggested for the first time that Britain would decide early in 1998 whether to join. In a series of interviews, the Chancellor also said that he expected a hard core of northern states to go ahead with monetary union at or near the proposed starting date of 1999.

The decision on the name was reached amicably but without much evident enthusiasm. Germany, faced with a public strongly opposed to surrendering the deutschmark, was keen to give the currency a name that did not sound too French.

President Chirac initially pressed for a Community-wide ballot on the subject, but he was opposed by Herr Kohl, who eventually secured French agreement by conceding that government debt inside the monetary union would be issued in Euros from 1999. That had been resisted by parts of Germany's financial community, but it should boost the currency's credibility on world markets.

Germany also won agreement that the summit to decide which countries adopt the currency will be held early in 1998 rather than at the end of 1997. The special summit will be chaired by the British Prime Minister of the day.

The outcome left Britain looking isolated. Only Mr Major urged caution and his colleagues gave him restrained hearing as he declared that the EU might be moving into "Alice in Wonderland" territory by being forced to authorise extra spending to help countries prepare for the single currency at a time when national governments were having to cut expenditure.

He was also concerned that a single currency could strengthen against many weaker European countries, raising the dangers of competitive devaluations and retaliatory protectionism.

EU leaders, however, were in no doubt that they were marking a watershed. M Chirac described the decisions as an historic moment for Europe, and Antonio Guterres of Portugal said: "Christ was the rock on which Christianity was built. The single currency is the rock on which Europe will be built." Portugal will not be a founder member.

Leading Conservatives Euro-sceptics responded angrily to the "disaster" in Madrid and dismissed Mr Major's efforts to check the rush towards a single currency. John Redwood said the Chancellor had been right to say that monetary union was now a serious prospect and he urged the Prime Minister to block it by demanding a strict interpretation of the Maastricht conditions, which would mean no country would currently qualify.

Bill Cash said: "The proposal to go ahead with monetary union and with the so-called Euro will go down as a complete disaster in British and European history."

Name game, page 10
Leading article and Letters, page 19

Rail sale terms are illegal, court says

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE Government suffered a fresh humiliation over rail privatisation yesterday when the Court of Appeal ruled that five of the first seven passenger franchises offered to private train operators were being sold unlawfully.

The judgment brought jubilation from campaigners against the sell-off with Tony Blair leading demands for the entire programme to be scrapped. The court's decision came after four days of consideration by Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lord Justice Waite and Mr Justice Otton. They were hearing an appeal from the Save Our Railways lobby group.

The judges said that the terms of the InterCity East Coast, Midland Main Line, Network SouthCentral, Gatwick Express and LTS Rail franchises were illegal in allowing private operators to make cuts of up to 60 per cent in service levels. They also expressed "very considerable doubt" about the legality of the two other franchises currently for sale, Great Western and South West Trains, but did not rule them unlawful.

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, said he would give careful consideration to the judgement but insisted that the sale of South West, Great Western and LTS Rail would begin next week as planned.

Government lawyers said that the LTS Rail franchise sale could still proceed because of the court's ruling that there had been an "undue" delay in launching the attempt to block it. The decision to press on with the sales brought an angry response from the campaigners, who accused the Government of showing contempt for the law.

Jimmy Knapp, leader of the RMT rail union, said: "By any standards this is a major defeat for the Government and a significant victory for all rail passengers. It will be an outrage if they proceed to sign contracts next week." Both sides are planning to appeal to the House of Lords against the ruling.

The Government put a brave face on its defeat despite seeing one of its key manifesto pledges run into chaos.

"It remains my strong belief that franchising of rail services is the best means of improving the quality of passenger services and reversing the long-term decline in the use of railways," Sir George said.

"The important thing now is to get on with the franchising process, so that the travelling public can see the real benefits it will bring."

Opponents of privatisation said the ruling would force a rethink of the sale of all 25 franchises, involving 10,000 train services. Keith Bill, secretary of Save Our Railways, said: "We have had a tremendous victory today which will bring great benefits to rail passengers the length and breadth of the country.

"Privatisation may not have been exactly derailed but it has run into a massive object on the line," he said.

Save Our Railways had argued that Roger Salmon, the franchise director, illegally set minimum passenger service levels for private operators well below the level of the existing timetable in defiance of formal instructions last year from John MacGregor, the former Transport Secretary. These stated that the levels should be "based on" the 1994 timetable.

The group's application for judicial review of the passenger service levels was thrown out by the High Court last week when Mr Justice Macpherson ruled that Mr Salmon had not acted "perversely, irrationally or unfairly".

However, yesterday's Court of Appeal ruling said that the words "based on" meant that changes to the existing timetable must be "marginal, not significant or substantial".

Leading article, page 19

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Picture: NIGEL BENNETT

Refugee Elvira Supuk, who starred in a television drama last night. She is described as a "natural talent".

A flight from horror to fame

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

Nine-year-old Elvira Supuk is happy with her acting debut, even though she had to relive the horrors of her family's flight from Bosnia for her part in last night's *Dangerfield* drama series on BBC television. During the filming, Elvira got on so well with Emily, the eight-year-old daughter of the series' co-star Amanda Redman, that she is to spend part of her Christmas holidays at the actress's London home. Ms Redman said: "The family's home was destroyed and they have lost their family and friends, but not their spirits." Viewers saw Elvira as a Bosnian orphan recreating the same hazardous flight from the war zone that she and her family were forced to make two years ago. She could speak no English when she arrived. Elvira has lived in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, since she fled from the war with her parents and brother. She said that she has always dreamed of being an actress and when the chance to play the role came along she knew it was too good an opportunity to pass up. Ms Redman, who plays Dr Joanna Stevens in the series, said: "She's a natural."

Branson sues GTech over lottery 'libel'

BY JON ASHWORTH AND FRANCES GIBB

RICHARD BRANSON began legal proceedings for libel yesterday against the American company which he accused of trying to bribe him to stay out of the race to run the National Lottery.

GTech, part of the victorious Camelot consortium, had said it was considering legal action over Mr Branson's remarks. The Virgin tycoon challenged it to sue him and let the courts decide but he has fired the first shot and a court battle appears inevitable.

Mr Branson said yesterday: "They have accused me of being a liar and of having spread an 'evil smear'. Given the nature of the accusations that they have levelled against me and their attack upon my integrity, and given the importance of the issues that have been raised, I have no other option than to issue a writ for defamation against GTech." GTech responded last night that it would contest the action.

Mr Branson claimed on a BBC *Panorama* programme on Monday that Guy Snowden, chairman of GTech, tried to bribe him over lunch at his West London home in September 1993. "The *Panorama* programme raised a number of serious issues concerning GTech and claims that have been made relating to the operation of their business. As GTech are major shareholders in the company running the National Lottery, those issues need to be addressed by GTech in a serious and considered fashion," he added.

There were suggestions that if GTech were to lose the case Peter Davis, Director-General of Oflot, could be forced to revoke Camelot's licence. Oflot sources denied this, saying the outcome of an action for defamation was not necessarily relevant.

Bill triggers media war

Government plans to relax Britain's media ownership rules started a takeover war among ITV companies yesterday. The rules, oulined in a new Broadcasting Bill, aim to allow the emergence of large television, newspaper and radio conglomerates... Page 4

Football transfers ruled illegal

Football was thrown into disarray when the European Court ruled, after a challenge by a Belgian player, that the transfer system and the restrictions on the number of foreign players were illegal................ Pages 38,44

Scent of profit

Woolworths is putting Christmas in the air by wafting the scent of mulled wine around 20 stores. A small gas canister releases a puff of the aroma every 15 minutes with the aim of inspiring a rush of buying...................... Page 9

Eminent lecturer jailed for stealing rare books

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

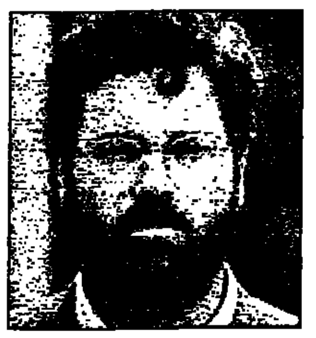
AN OXFORD academic who stole a first edition of Isaac Newton's *Principia Mathematica* and other rare books from college libraries was jailed for two years yesterday.

Dr Simon Heighes, a baroque music expert and BBC Radio 3 presenter, admitted stealing 78 antiquarian books and manuscripts over four years before his arrest in May. Heighes, 33, made £140,000 from the thefts, using the money to pay off his mortgage and buy four paintings.

Police found two suitcases of books, one dating from 1556, under his bed. However, the 1687 first edition of *Principia*, stolen from Christ Church library, Oxford, and worth £67,500, had already been sold and may never be recovered.

Jailing Heighes at Oxford Crown Court, Judge Francis Allen told the academic that he had "grossly abused" his position of trust. As a part-time music lecturer at Oriel and Queen's Colleges, Oxford, and Trinity College of Music in London, he was granted access to library areas closed to the public. After removing the volumes' plates, he sold them on through the auctioneers Sotheby's, and Blackwell's bookshop in Oxford.

Heighes, a presenter of Radio 3's *Composer of the Week* and described as a "genius" by BBC colleagues, admitted 12 charges of theft and obtaining property by deception between January 1991 and May 1995, and asked for 113 other offences to be taken into consideration.



Heighes: claimed books were his grandfather's

Tony McGeorge, for the prosecution, said Sotheby's and Blackwell's suspected nothing because they "were dealing with a man of eminence. He pretended they came from a collection from his grandfather".

Patrick Eccles, QC, defending Heighes, said he began the thefts after breaking up with his live-in girlfriend, which had led to overwork and heavy drinking. He had sold his house and now had £195,000 available to pay compensation.

Global hunt, page 5

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Ulster team's caution echoed by fresh doubts from Sinn Fein

Arms commission 'has no Santa sack of easy solutions'

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

DAVE CAULKIN

Mitchell, right, and General de Chastelain

THE head of the international commission charged with breaking the deadlock between Britain and the IRA on terrorist weapons gave a warning yesterday that success was "far from assured".

The comment by George Mitchell, an aide to President Clinton, came as the commission held its first meetings with political leaders in Belfast. Another commission member, Harri Holkeri, the former Finnish Prime Minister, said that despite his country of origin he was not a political Santa Claus. "I and my colleagues do not have any ready-made Christmas presents.

"The solutions must be found in the minds of the people of Northern Ireland. But we are going to do our utmost to help them to find a solution."

His caution coincided with Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, expressing "great doubts" about whether the commission could work if Britain continued to call on the IRA to disarm ahead of all-party talks. Mr Mitchell, one of the leading White House advisers on Northern Ireland, was appointed by London and Dublin last month to chair the commission. The former senator, who also held talks with the Progressive Unionist Party, the political wing of the Ulster Volunteer Force, said that his commission had an important responsibility to further the "historic process now underway in Northern Ireland".

Mr Mitchell underlined the sensitivity of the commission's work when he said that all meetings would be held in private. While he was mindful of the importance of openness in a democracy there were times when working in confidence was essential. The third commission member is General John de Chastelain, the Canadian Chief of Defence Staff.

Mr Adams used the commission's first day to condemn Britain's insistence that the IRA must decommission some arms before Sinn Fein can join all-party talks. Mr Adams said: "I honestly don't know how [the commission] will work if the British ... seek to predetermine the outcome, seek to ignore whatever the findings may be and continually call for a surrender of IRA weapons."

Mr Adams criticised Britain's refusal to equate IRA arms with the weapons of the security forces. He said in Dublin: "I reject absolutely the silly notion that John Major and [Sir] Patrick Mayhew have put about that British weapons will not be part of the equation. In our submission [to the commission] we will be dealing with all weapons."

Mr Mitchell's cautious comments and Mr Adams's criticism highlight the formidable task the commission faces in balancing the demands of London, Dublin and Northern Ireland's political parties. Dublin believes that the commission should be an essentially political body which acts as a guarantor of the commitment of the IRA and the loyalists to their ceasefires.

Britain, in contrast, believes that the body should recommend ways in which terrorist arms could be decommissioned to allow Sinn Fein and the loyalists to join all-party talks. However, ministers have hinted that they would be willing to consider fresh proposals by the commission.

The commission will hold further talks in Belfast today with the RUC, the Ulster Unionists, the SDLP, the Alliance Party and the Ulster Democratic Party, the political wing of the Ulster Defence Association. It will then move to Dublin for talks with political parties in the Republic tomorrow and on Monday. Sinn Fein will present its submission on Monday.

☐ David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, and the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, held talks in Belfast on the future of Northern Ireland. They called on the Government to set up an elected assembly.

Letters, page 19

Paper and editor fined £75,000 over royal book

By A Staff Reporter

THE defunct newspaper *Today* and its former Editor were fined £75,000 yesterday for breaking a worldwide injunction and publishing extracts from a book about the Prince of Wales written by his former housekeeper.

Richard Stott, through his counsel Lord Lester QC, offered "unqualified and sincere apologies" to the High Court after admitting that the article, taken from the book by the Prince's former housekeeper, Wendy Berry, had breached the injunction.

Lord Justice Potts said it was a serious contempt committed for commercial gain and the penalties had to reflect that. Mr Stott was fined £25,000 and News UK £50,000. Both sums and legal costs will be met by News International, parent company of News UK.

After the case Mr Stott said the action "had a great deal more to do with who was involved than what it was about". He said: "It is absolutely outrageous that the Prince of Wales would want to consign people to prison for that kind of thing when he is prepared to go on television and talk about his relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles and other matters of confidentiality."

The Prince obtained an injunction banning Mrs Berry from cashing in on her nine years' service with the Royal Family at Highgrove, which ended in 1991. The former housekeeper, now believed to be in Canada, went ahead, however, and published her book, *The Housekeeper's Diary*, in the United States, in which she claimed she was revealing the Princess of Wales's bedroom secrets.

An injunction was issued in the High Court in January this year restraining Mrs Berry from publishing or revealing anywhere in the world information which came during her employment in the royal household.

Mr Stott had admitted they knew of the injunction when they published in July but were unaware it affected them because the material was no longer confidential, unpublished information and was available everywhere.

Lord Justice Potts said he accepted that the Editor had acted on mistaken advice from the newspaper's lawyers and for this reason he was not committing him to prison.

Grant accuses police of ignoring causes of riot

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

BERNIE Grant attacked Sir Paul Condon and the Home Secretary last night for blaming Brixton's riots solely on a minority of thugs and criminals.

The Labour MP for Tottenham said the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and white politicans had acted irresponsibly in blaming a small minority without looking at the underlying causes of the disturbances. He said that the disturbances in Brixton in which 12 people, including three police officers, were injured, would not be the last.

Scotland Yard disclosed yesterday that two 16-year-olds were shot and injured during the rioting and a 55-year-old man was seriously ill in hospital with a fractured skull, punctured lung and other stab wounds he received when he tried to move his car at the height of the disturbances. His condition in King's College Hospital, south London, was described last night as serious, but stable. The teenagers were treated at the same for shotgun pellet wounds, but their injuries were not serious.

Three shots were also fired outside the Ritzy cinema and at the Wychwood Tavern pub in Effra Road during rioting which flared after a protest into the death in police custody of 26-year-old Wayne Douglas. It was only the second time that firearms had been used on the British mainland during street disturbances.

Mr Grant said in a statement: "It is totally irresponsible for white politicians and the Metropolitan Police simply to condemm violence and talk about 'lawlessness' by a small minority without looking at the underlying causes of which they are part."

Mr Grant said the frustrations of the black community could not be properly voiced because of a crisis of leadership among blacks in the inner cities. He contrasted the huge media coverage of the death of Philip Lawrence, the headmaster stabbed to death in Maida Vale, with the coverage given to the death of Mr Douglas.

"Combine this with the fact that when the police make no statement, suspend nobody, and investigate themselves, then young black people feel that black life is worth nothing." He said that in such circumstances they felt they had to draw attention to injustice by taking to the streets.

Mr Grant did not condemm the violence in Brixton. He had been advertised as one of the speakers at the vigil for Mr Douglas but did not turn up on Wednesday in time for the main rally. He was detained at the House of Commons but was driven to Brixton at about 8pm, drove around the area and returned to central London without seeing any trouble.

Mr Douglas's brother, Albert, and sister, Lisa, went with their solicitor to the Police Complaints Authority office in Westminster yesterday to discuss the investigation into his death. During the meeting, hastily arranged after the rioting, they met Edward Wignall, the authority member who is supervising the inquiry, and Superintendent Paul O'Nion, who is heading the inquiry.

Twenty two people, including one woman, arrested during the rioting on suspicion of theft, criminal damage, burglary and public order offences have been bailed to report to three separate south London police stations on February 14.

CORRECTION

A photograph published yesterday was not, as the caption incorrectly stated, of Mr Lee Jasper, of the National Black Caucus, but of Mr George Ruddock, London Editor of *The Gleaner*. We apologise to both men.

Germans seek UK beef ban

The upper house of the German parliament called unanimously yesterday for a ban on imports of British beef because of fears that "mad cow" disease could infect consumers.

In a renewal of German concern over bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), the Bundesrat said consumer protection should take priority over European Union rules which prevent such a ban. However, the German Health Minister, who had asked the Bundesrat merely to renew existing EU-approved restrictions, rejected the request for a full ban. The decisions of the upper house, which represents Germany's 16 regional states, are not binding.

Oftel lifts cap on BT line rental

BT aims to introduce a series of residential telephone packages next summer with charges relating to the number of calls made. The service will replace the current line-rental charge of £24.79 a quarter. The move follows yesterday's announcement by Oftel, the industry regulator, that the price cap on line-rental charges will be scrapped early next year after 11 years.

Joyrider hanged with dog lead

A teenage joyrider crashed his parents' car and hanged himself rather than be punished by his strict father, an inquest in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, was told yesterday. Shaun Barnett, 15, took the family car while his parents were out and crashed it into several parked cars and a bus stop. He was later found hanging from a dog lead in the garage of his home. The inquest was adjourned.

Homeowners fail to claim rebate

Almost half of homeowners entitled to claim council tax rebates fail to do so. The first government statistics recording such benefits show that up to 2 million potential claimants failed to apply for the rebate leaving up to £630 million unclaimed. Homeowners were the least likely to claim the benefit, which can cover the entire council tax bill if the claimant earns less than £100 a week.

Vicar defeated over name ban

Olive Sharrock has the right to use her late husband's name, Tom, on his grave, an Ecclesiastical Court ruled. Her vicar, at the church in Freckleton, Lancashire, had demanded that the headstone should read "Thomas". In an earlier case there, a family who clashed with the Rev Stephen Brian over using the word "grand-dad" on a headstone ended up having their relative reburied elsewhere.

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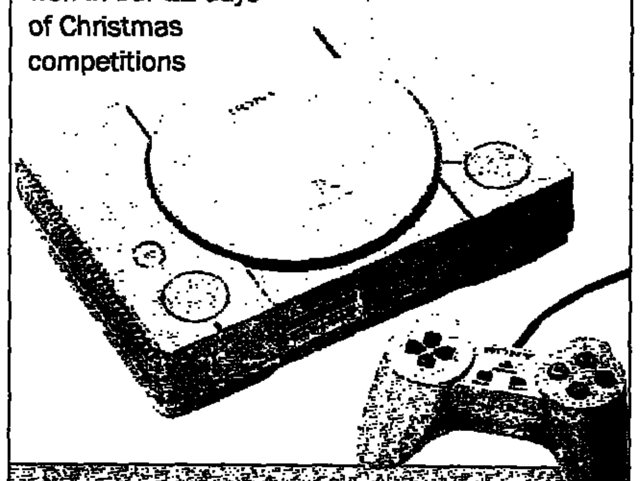

FIVE AUSTRALIAN HOLIDAYS FOR TWO TO BE WON NEXT WEEK

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

صورة من الأصل

Boy, 15, died after taking Ecstasy meant for mother

By Andrew Pierce

A BOY aged 15 died after taking an overdose of Ecstasy tablets that had been hidden in the family home by his mother's boyfriend, an inquest was told yesterday.

Aaron Fairhurst took up to five pills in his bedroom after discovering the secret hoard intended for use by his mother Lisa, 31, and her partner, Gareth Charles, 26. They have renounced their drug habit since Aaron's death in May.

The inquest at Crewe, Cheshire, was told that Mrs Fairhurst smoked cannabis at home, had taken cocaine, and first took Ecstasy as a mature student at Manchester University. She had allowed her son to smoke cannabis at home with his schoolfriends, although she disapproved, because she felt it was better than letting him go "out on the streets" to pursue the habit.

Mrs Fairhurst, of Davenham, Cheshire, said last night: "We will never get over the guilt. It will last with us forever. Drugs have wrecked all our lives. We hope it does not wreck the lives of other parents."

John Pollard, the coroner, recorded a verdict that Aaron died from the abuse of a non-dependent drug. "Illicit drugs are horrendous," he said. "They are not to be played with lightly. The scourge of Ecstasy is worrying to all in the medical profession and to coroners.

"I make a plea from the heart to all teenagers and anyone else tempted to use Ecstasy or any other illicit drugs: bear in mind that you don't know where they were prepared or how well or badly they were manufactured. You don't know what you are putting in your body. It is a most foolish and stupid thing to do."

On May 25 Mrs Fairhurst had gone to bed at about 10.30pm and had not looked into Aaron's room because the light was off. "But I heard a banging noise as if an object had been knocked over and grunting noises coming from Aaron's room. I thought Aaron had a girl in the room and it was the sound of a couple making love."

Aaron: was found in his room after overdose

She called her son. When there was no reply, she opened the door. "We saw Aaron with his upper body on the bed and his feet on the floor. His body was rigid and his eyes were open but rolling back. He was soaking wet but very hot and had all the classic symptoms of an Ecstasy overdose or reaction."

She and Charles helped him to drink two pints of water and a pint of salt water in an attempt to make him vomit. It did not work. They took him in their car to Leighton Hospital, Crewe, when he lost consciousness. Charles returned to the house and found that about five Ecstasy tablets had gone. Aaron died soon afterwards.

Tests showed that there were 4.8mg of Ecstasy in Aaron's blood. Users who have taken up to three tablets would usually have about 1mg in their blood.

The unemployed couple had taken three tablets from the same batch. They said they were the strongest they had taken. Mrs Fairhurst, who is divorced from her son's father, said she was aware of the dangers of drugs, having seen a man die after collapsing on a dancefloor in a nightclub in Stoke-on-Trent.

She said that she had moved to Cheshire from Manchester because Aaron had been bullied at school. After the move he was the happiest he had been in a long time. "I cannot understand what his motives were to sit in the bedroom and do that on his own, when it is generally classed as a social thing."

Fairhurst and Charles, who admitted charges of possession of cannabis and Ecstasy, were placed on probation for six months by Northwich magistrates in October.

☐ The sister of Leah Betts, the girl who died on her eighteenth birthday party after taking one Ecstasy tablet, will talk about it on LWT's *Speakeasy* programme today

Emily Betts, 20, said that she found it hard to believe that people continued to use Ecstasy. "If I could only show them my sister lying there in that chapel of rest, completely white, through one £10 tablet."

GEORGE PHILLIPS

Louise Skidmore, synchronised swimming champion in 1988, was jailed for two years

Synchronised swimmer jailed for selling pills

By A Staff Reporter

A BRITISH international synchronised swimmer was jailed for two years yesterday for offering tablets she believed to be Ecstasy for sale at a nightclub rave.

In fact, Louise Skidmore, 22, from Bristol, national champion in 1988 and a participant in world championships, was selling pills that contained no controlled drug.

Her co-defendant at Plymouth Crown Court, Leona Nicholls, 23, who had been living in London, was also jailed for two years. Judge William Taylor told them that though they were both of previous good character and otherwise hardworking and decent, the offence was so serious that only a custodial sentence could be passed.

Both women had appeared for sentence, having pleaded guilty last month to offering Ecstasy tablets for sale at the Oz nightclub in Union Street, Plymouth, in April. They had brought the tablets from Bristol to Plymouth, having accepted them for sale on behalf of another person in a moment of stupidity.

The judge told Skidmore: "Many youngsters look up to you to set an example." He went on to describe as endemic the sale and use of Ecstasy in pubs and clubs in the city. "There is nothing glamorous about this drug. It is as dangerous as it is evil, as people's reaction to it is wholly unpredictable."

John Bush, for the prosecution, had said that the women were in the nightclub on the night of April 28 when a random drug search was carried out. Asked to produce their purses, Nicholls was found to have around £200, and Skidmore about £100.

Security guards were not happy with the explanation that they had just received their pay packets. They both denied carrying any drugs and the police were called. Nicholls produced a bag of 43 tablets from her bra.

Seven tablets had been sold for about £10 to £12 each. Nicholls had said that £69 of the money in her possession was from the sale of them, Mr Bush said.

In interviews after arrest, both admitted they had brought from Bristol what they thought were Ecstasy tablets. They both used Ecstasy occasionally.

Simon Burns, for Skidmore, said she was not involved in the acquisition of the drugs but was aware her co-defendant had them in the club. Out of misguided loyalty to her friend she had agreed to assist in the selling of the tablets.

Skidmore's career was in ruins and her ambition to join the Army had been thwarted. "She will bear a label for life," Mr Burns said.

Paul Rowsell, for Nicholls, said she had shown appalling irresponsibility, ignorance and stupidity, but was now full of contrition.

Student chose to die after prank led to paralysis

By Lin Jenkins

A RUGBY player who was paralysed in a nightclub prank on his 23rd birthday died after refusing medical treatment, an inquest was told yesterday.

David Norman spent the last 18 months of his life on a ventilator in a hospital bed. He ruptured his spinal cord when he fell on his head after diving from a 6ft balcony towards a group of friends.

Dr Anthony Trowmans, consultant in the spinal unit at Salisbury District Hospital, described his quality of life as "extremely poor". He told the inquest at Salisbury: "David said he could not carry on living in that state and that he wished to discontinue his life.

"He was a young man who commanded respect and admiration. He knew he would die if he did not take his insulin and we could not force him to take it." Mr Norman died two days after taking the decision not to take insulin for his diabetes last May.

William Norman, of Foxham, Wiltshire, said his son died with dignity. "We knew he had made his decision. That was the one thing he could do. For 18 months everything had been done for him. At the end he decided to do something for himself. However hard it is for us to accept that, we have complete respect for the dignity with which he did it and the way in which he did it."

David Masters, the Wiltshire Coroner, said he had decided on a "narrative" verdict. He recorded that Mr Norman died as a result of a decision not to take insulin after quadraplegia and continuing ventilation. "I consider Mr Norman was a particularly brave and selfless young man. His thoughts were not for himself but for others."

Mr Norman, a business studies student at Plymouth University who was awarded a degree although he was not due to graduate until the following summer, had been celebrating his birthday after the university rugby club's annual meeting.

Steven Shanks, a fellow player who was also celebrating his birthday, said in a statement that the party of 20 had gone to the Oz nightclub in Plymouth on December 13. He had dived off the balcony into the arms of his friends before Mr Norman did the same. "He was caught but seemed to slip between their arms, landing on his head. He said straight away that he could not move his legs."

David Higgins, another in the group, said: "Bar diving is a common rugby club practice. David launched himself towards us. I really don't know how it happened but his legs seemed to come up and he fell to the ground."

David Norman with his girlfriend Amber Thomas

French groper must pay £1,000

By Paul Wilkinson

A FRENCHMAN who claimed he mistook the signals he received from a young Englishwoman was ordered to pay her £1,000 compensation after admitting indecent assault yesterday.

Marcel Boisson, 29, a Pyrenean ski instructor on holiday in York, passed the 22-year-old blonde in a dimly lit street. He said that when their eyes met he believed that she was attracted to him. But when he slid his hand up her short skirt, she screamed and hit him in the face.

When Boisson, of Lacobe in southwest France, first appeared in court on Tuesday he pleaded the romantic temperament of his race in mitigation, but yesterday he accepted that he was guilty of a serious assault. The York magistrates imposed no other penalty.

Michael Duffy, for the prosecution, said that Boisson walked up behind the woman, put his hand on her shoulder and grabbed her coat. They did not speak to each other before the assault took place. "She punched him in the face and Boisson ran off." A man chased him and made a citizen's arrest. Boisson burst into tears, saying: "I'm sorry, I am very lonely."

His solicitor, Craig Robertson, said: "Boisson can't explain why, to his eternal regret, he had assaulted the woman in this way. She had smiled at him and he walked along the street very briskly to catch her up. She was wearing a fairly short skirt which was not in any way provocative, but everything happened within a space of a second or so." He then "realised the enormity of what he had done".

Surrey huskies howled down

By Joanna Bale

A SURREY couple who kept a pack of seven Siberian huskies in their back garden appeared in court yesterday after their neighbours complained that the dogs' howling was creating a nuisance.

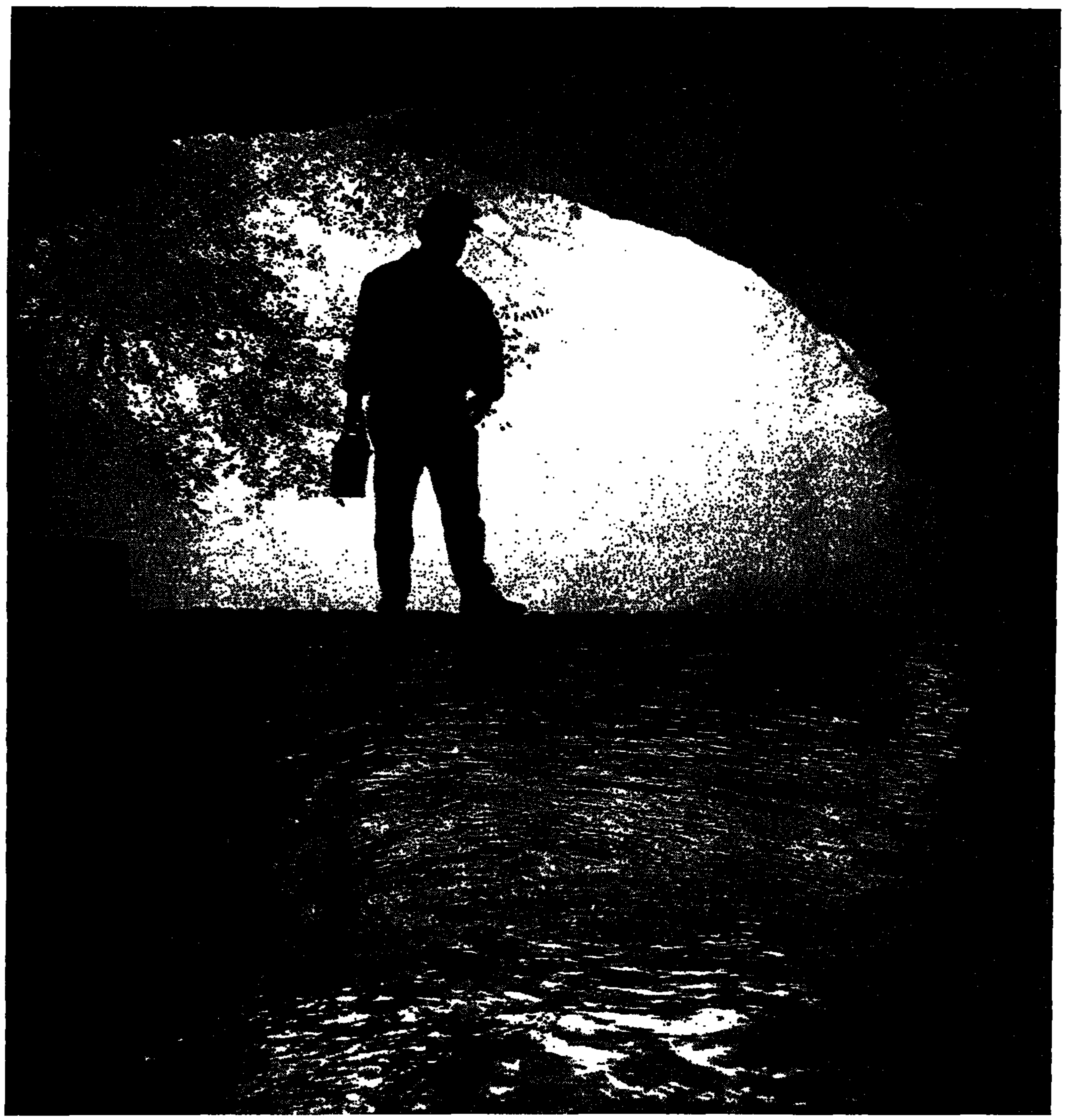
Tim and Natalie Bowman, who race the dogs in competition, were found guilty of failing to comply with a noise abatement notice. They were ordered to pay £750 costs and given a conditional discharge for two years.

Jean Hinton, 53, who lives next door to the Bowmans in Mytchett, said: "The noise is an unusual, penetrating howl which sounds like a pack of wolves and really gets to me and my husband. I would rather it had been sorted out without having to go to court, but it appeared to be the only way to get it stopped."

After the decision, at Camberley Magistrates' Court, Mrs Bowman said: "There could be 20 dogs barking in the street all day long and that wouldn't be considered a nuisance. But a small pack of huskies howling for just five minutes a day is breaking the law. The whole thing is ridiculous."

The court was told that Surrey Heath Borough Council served a noise abatement notice in 1993 ordering the Bowmans to stop the dogs howling and to screen their pens, but complaints from neighbours continued.

Gerald Winter, a principal environmental health officer, said: "We placed very specialised recording equipment at the edge of the Bowmans' garden. The volume of the howling wasn't the main factor, but rather the distinct sound, which could be distressing. After all, the howling of Siberian huskies isn't the sort of thing you'd expect to hear in Mytchett."



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Shares move sharply as Broadcasting Bill sets off television takeover speculation

Bottomley eases restrictions on TV ownership

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ITV companies were at the centre of takeover speculation last night after the Government published plans to overhaul media ownership. Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, unveiled a Broadcasting Bill that will relax many of the tight restrictions on newspaper and television cross-ownership.

The proposals will scrap restrictions that limit independent television companies to owning two ITV licences. Instead, they will be allowed to control up to 15 per cent of the total audience.

The move sent the shares of the smaller ITV companies — the ones most likely to be swallowed up as the industry consolidates — soaring. Shares in the companies likely to do the acquiring — Granada, Carlton and MAI — fell as investors sensed that a bidding war might cause them to overpay for their targets.

Analysts believe that Granada, with a 7.2 per cent share, will buy Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, in which it already owns a 14.5 per cent stake. The merged group would have a 13.1 per cent audience share, giving it enough space to buy a small ITV company such as Grampian, which has less than 1 per cent of the market.

Simon Forrest, a spokesman for HTV, said: "This is a revolution we're talking about. This is the start of the ITV industry being owned by two or three companies."

Mrs Bottomley said the plans would help to create "more channels, more choice and more opportunities" for consumers by allowing British media companies to grow and compete more effectively in the international market.

The opportunities for Britain to build on a national success story in the 21st century were immense. "New digital technology, and the increasing demands of consumers and commerce, are driving a massive expansion in the global broadcasting market. Our proposals will liberate British broadcasters to become world leaders."

The Bill, which was broadly welcomed by most of the media sector, is expected to have a smooth passage through Parliament and come into force by 1997.

A discordant note came from Channel 4, which has been lobbying the Government to scrap the funding formula that requires it to pay around £50 million to ITV every year.

Although the Bill proposes to revise the formula in such a way that would ensure that Channel 4 pays less money to ITV and retains more for its own programme needs, Sir Michael Bishop, Channel 4's chairman, described the plan as "unacceptable" and said he would prefer the formula to be scrapped entirely.

"The revised formula will lead to an annual row between the ITV companies, Channel 4 and the Secretary of State as to who gets what proportion of Channel 4's earned income."

Dr John Cunningham, Shadow Heritage Secretary, said the Bill failed to take full advantage of the current huge growth in multimedia services. The Government had also missed the opportunity to review the rules covering the televising of sporting events. "The BBC seems to be losing any claim to be a broadly based sports television broadcaster. Labour will use debates on this Bill to explore these issues. We believe the 'listed events' should be effectively protected," he said.

The Bill guarantees the future security of Britain's three national commercial radio stations — Classic FM, Virgin 1215 and Talk Radio — by allowing them to renew their current analogue licences if they decide to take up the guaranteed digital licences being offered to them.

JAMES MORGAN

On camera: Mrs Bottomley announcing the broadcasting proposals yesterday

End of analogue spells new era

THE Government's plans for digital broadcasting would allow for the creation of up to 18 new terrestrial television stations. Digital technology will offer the opportunity of high-definition pictures and near CD-quality sound, but to receive it viewers will need to purchase a set-top digital decoder box costing between £300 and £500.

The digital plans unveiled yesterday were more generous towards the main terrestrial broadcasters than those outlined in the Government's digital policy document in August.

The new digital channels will be accommodated on six frequency groups known as multiplexes. All the existing terrestrial broadcasters, including the forthcoming Channel 5, will be offered half a multiplex, enabling them to simulcast their existing analogue services free of charge and to offer extra channels, probably on a subscription or a pay-per-view basis.

The BBC will be awarded its own multiplex and ITV and Channel 4 will share a multiplex. In Wales the Welsh Channel, S4C and Channel 4 would each be offered a quarter of that multiplex. That arrangement means that ITV and Channel 4 can run their own digital transmission. Channel 5 would be offered half of a multiplex.

The remaining three and a half multiplexes will be thrown open to the market. Although the satellite television company British Sky Broadcasting is almost certain to bid to become a multiplex provider as well as a provider of digital programming, the Government is keen to attract new entrants into the broadcasing market such as Sony, British Telecom and Motorolla. As an inducement to encourage players into the high risk and as yet, untried and untested digital market, the Government said that there will be no payment expected from holders of digital broadcasing licences for all of the 12 years of their first franchise. In addition, the multiplex licence can be "rolled over" at the end of the first franchise period — subject to certain conditions.

DIGITAL BROADCASTING

Although, the Government wants to clear the analogue spectrum quickly to free it for lucrative commercial use such as telecommunications, it is reluctant to set a date when it will "switch off" all analogue services. Mrs Bottomley said that she would review the idea of introducing a "switch off" date within five years or once 50 per cent of households were able to receive digital terrestrial television, whichever was the sooner.

The press moves beyond printed word

FOR the first time, newspaper publishers that control less than 20 per cent of the national market will be able to buy ITV companies outright, subject to a limit of 15 per cent of all television viewers.

The abolition of the current restrictions is a recognition of the increasing convergence of the print, televisual and audio industries and the emergence of a single multimedia sector. The proposals will introduce a "public interest criteria" by which the regulatory authorities can assess and approve mergers or acquisitions between newspapers, television and radio companies.

NEWSPAPERS

Associated Newspapers, whose publications include the *Daily Mail*, already runs a cable station in London. Sir David English, chairman of the company and of the British Media Industry Group, which represents Associated, Pearson, the Telegraph Group and Guardian Media Group, said: "The media industry group has campaigned for a new legislative framework to enable British newspaper companies to compete effectively in the global market."

A spokesman for Pearson, which publishes the *Financial Times* and has a stake in the forthcoming Channel 5, showed more caution. "Pearson's television business is not focused on opportunities in the ITV network," he said. The company would wait until digital terrestrial television had taken off before considering whether to enter the market. The new rules effectively block any expansion into terrestrial television of the two biggest national press groups, News International, which owns *The Times*, and Mirror Group, because they own more than 20 per cent of the national newspaper market.

Newspapers will also be able to buy radio stations, within prescribed limits. Harry Roache, chairman of Guardian Media Group, which owns 11 per cent of Golden Rose Radio, owner of the Jazz FM and Viva local radio stations, said: "We now have greater opportunities in terms of radio and will be looking for opportunities in electronic publishing."

Big three enjoy power surge

THE rules clear the way for the three biggest ITV companies, Granada/LWT, Carlton/Central and MAI, which owns the ITV licences for Meridian and Anglia, to purchase smaller companies. Shares in HTV, Scottish Television and Yorkshire Tyne-Tees all rose on the news.

A merger between the big groups, such as Carlton and MAI, is also a possibility. Gus MacDonald, chairman designate of Scottish Television, whose shares shot up yesterday, said: "The relaxation of restrictions will allow terrestrial broadcasters to keep pace with competition in the rapid expansion of multi-media activities."

ITV OWNERSHIP

A spokesman for HTV, another possible takeover target, said that although the company may now lose its independence, it would now play a "pivotal" role in the likely consolidation future direction of ITV.

In order to ensure that the consolidation of the ITV companies does not adversely affect regional television production, the Government has endowed the Independent Television Commission with powers to impose new licence conditions to protect regional programmes.

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Police appeal to dealers taken in by Oxford academic 'to do the honourable thing'

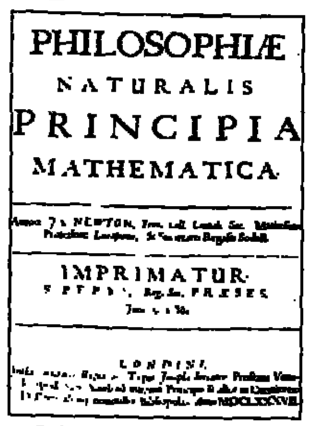
Detectives scour globe for stolen antique books

By Emma Wilkins

A SEARCH for rare books stolen by the Oxford academic jailed yesterday for theft is under way in Britain, America, Germany and Italy. A team of detectives and antiquarian book experts has, for the seven months since the arrest of Dr Simon Heighes, an authority on baroque music, been trying to trace 41 irreplaceable volumes.

At least 20 rare books and manuscripts, including a first edition of Sir Isaac Newton's *Principia Mathematica*, are still missing. The 1687 Newton volume, which was stolen from Christ Church library and has an estimated value of £67,000, was sold by Heighes to Blackwell's of Oxford, which then sold it to Pickering & Chatto, a respected bookdealer in London. The dealer sold it on to a dealer in New York. The trail then went cold.

A £3,200 volume by the 17th century composer Frescobaldi, entitled *Il seconde libro di toccate*, was last traced to a dealer in Rome. An £8,000 volume of Newton's *Optiks* (1704) is believed to be somewhere in Germany.



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NATURALIS
PRINCIPIA
MATHEMATICA

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Principia Mathematica by Newton: missing

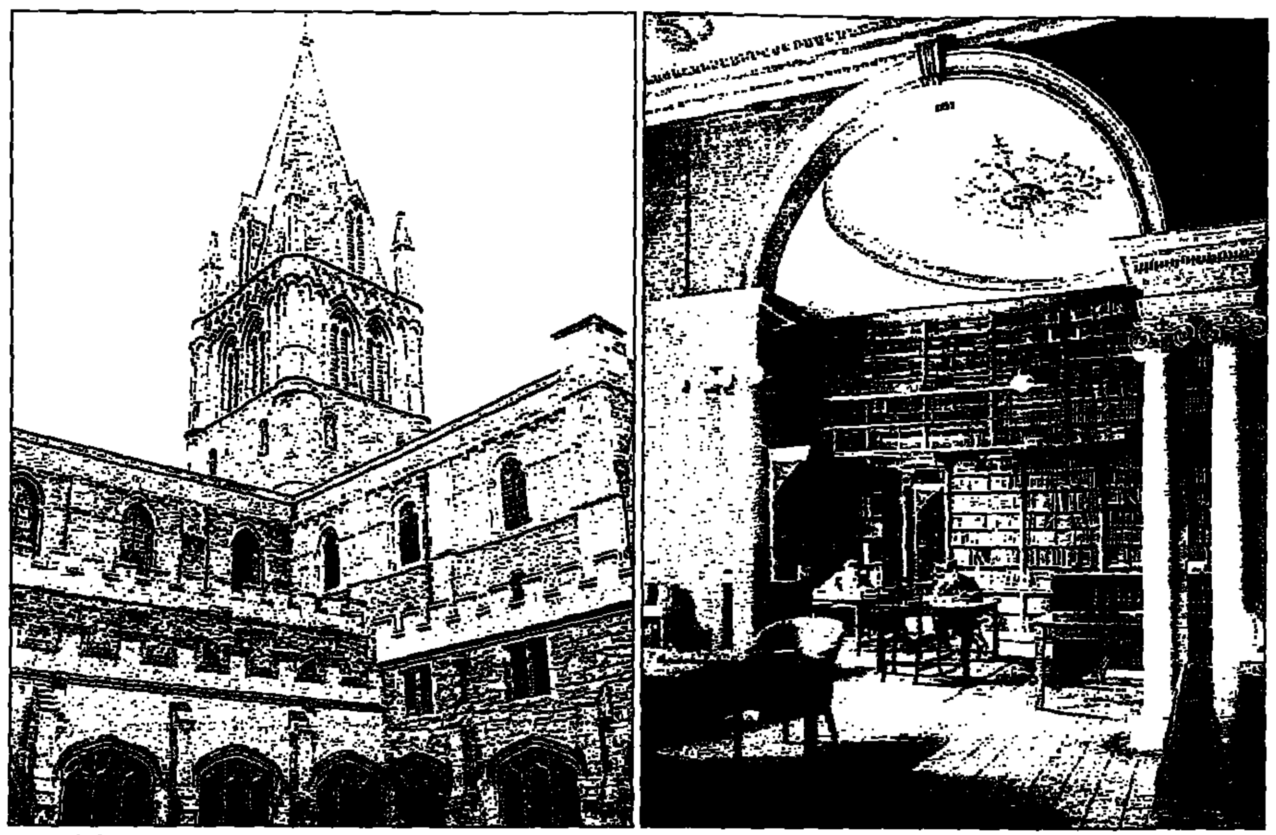
A £19,000 astrological text by Edmond Halley, *Catalogus Stellarum Australium* (1669), was last traced to a dealer in London but by now could be anywhere. "We are working tirelessly to recover these books but there may be one or two that are lost forever," said Detective Constable Stephen Honey of Thames Valley Police, who is co-ordinating the search. "The books are of worldwide importance."

The recovery is complicated by the question of compensation. Foreign dealers and collectors who bought books and manuscripts in good faith should be compensated, but funds are not inexhaustible. Thames Valley Police have £190,000 from the proceeds of the sale of Dr Heighes's house. They have seizure orders available for bank accounts and other assets if the money runs out. Orders can be made in British courts for the return of books within the courts' jurisdiction.

"In the case of books that have gone abroad, we are appealing to dealers and collectors to do the honourable things and return them, although that will leave them in some financial trouble," Detective Constable Honey said. "We would hope to sort out the compensation afterwards."

Blackwell's and Sotheby's, which Dr Heighes used to sell-on his stolen books, have been unstinting in their efforts to locate volumes, he said. "There is no suggestion of any blame attached to Blackwells and Sotheby's — they were taken in by his stories and the fact that he was in an important university position."

Quarritch, a leading antiquarian bookseller, bought several stolen items by mistake at Sotheby's in two sales



Heighes stole *Principia Mathematica* from the library at Christ Church, Oxford, and sold it to a local dealer

last December. "At a reputable auction house like Sotheby's, you would expect everything to be OK," Andrew Hunter, of the science, medicine and mathematics department at Quarritch, said. "One of my colleagues asked Sotheby's if they were OK, and was assured they were. Several months later we got a call from Christ Church asking if we had certain items. We returned them to Sotheby's and had our money refunded."

Mr Hunter said the dealers who had been duped by Heighes were devastated. "He was a very plausible young man who managed to hoodwink everyone.

"His story was that he'd inherited these things and that it was rather sensitive and he didn't want anyone to know that he was selling them."

Booksellers can check the Art Loss Register, a computer record of stolen arts goods, before purchasing anything to see if it is stolen. But much of the trade still depends on the principle of *caveat emptor*: buyer beware.

"There comes a point where you do have to depend on mutual trust. We are not naturally suspicious about the provenance," Mr Hunter said. "For the college libraries, this is a very sensitive issue. They don't do an annual stock-take so if someone is in a position of trust and is siphoning things off, then it's enormously difficult to notice."

The Bodleian Library is considering introducing electronic book-tagging. David Vaisey, the librarian, said the scheme could work in the Radcliffe Camera, where thousands of volumes are kept.

Under the process, electronic tape is stuck on books and a gate is introduced at the exit point. If a book is taken out through the gate without being neutralised, an alarm rings out. The scheme is in operation at other university libraries.

Academic jailed, page 1

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Plus: AA Gill identifies the six biggest party bores to steer clear of

The Style section, The Sunday Times tomorrow

Playboy lays bare the Irish divide

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

THE prayers of thousands of Irishmen were answered yesterday when *Playboy* went on sale in the Irish Republic for the first time since it was banned in 1959. A pouting Pamela Anderson on the cover enticed readers to turn to an 11-page spread of the *Baywatch* star posing without her customary red swimsuit.

However, Brendan McGahon, an MP from the governing Fine Gael party, said: "Playboy is for sick people. We recently legalised homosexuality and it is now only a matter of time before we legalise brothels." He called on "ladies' organisations" to protest against *Playboy*, although he said: "They seem to have their knickers in a twist at the moment." He added: "I am not a Mary Whitehouse type — I'm conservative and quite normal in every way."

Playboy flew 6,000 copies of its latest issue into the Republic after the Censorship of Publications Appeal Board lifted its ban on the magazine. Hugh Hefner, the publisher of *Playboy*, welcomed his new readers. He wrote: "I am particularly pleased that our magazine is available in Ireland, a nation that has given the world so many of its finest writers and artists."

Easons, the newsagent distributing *Playboy*, said it had sold well. A spokesman, said: "A lot of people who have read about it want to see it."

Playboy won its battle to enter the Irish market after convincing the censorship board that the magazine was more than just a smutty sex magazine. The publishers told the board that consenting adults should not be denied the magazine's "breadth, stature and international appeal".

In an interview with Irish Radio, Bob O'Connell, vice-president of *Playboy*, defended the magazine's pictures of nude women. He said: "The ladies who appear in the magazine in all cases approach us. They feel it is a way they can express themselves and their sexuality, and we are very proud of them."

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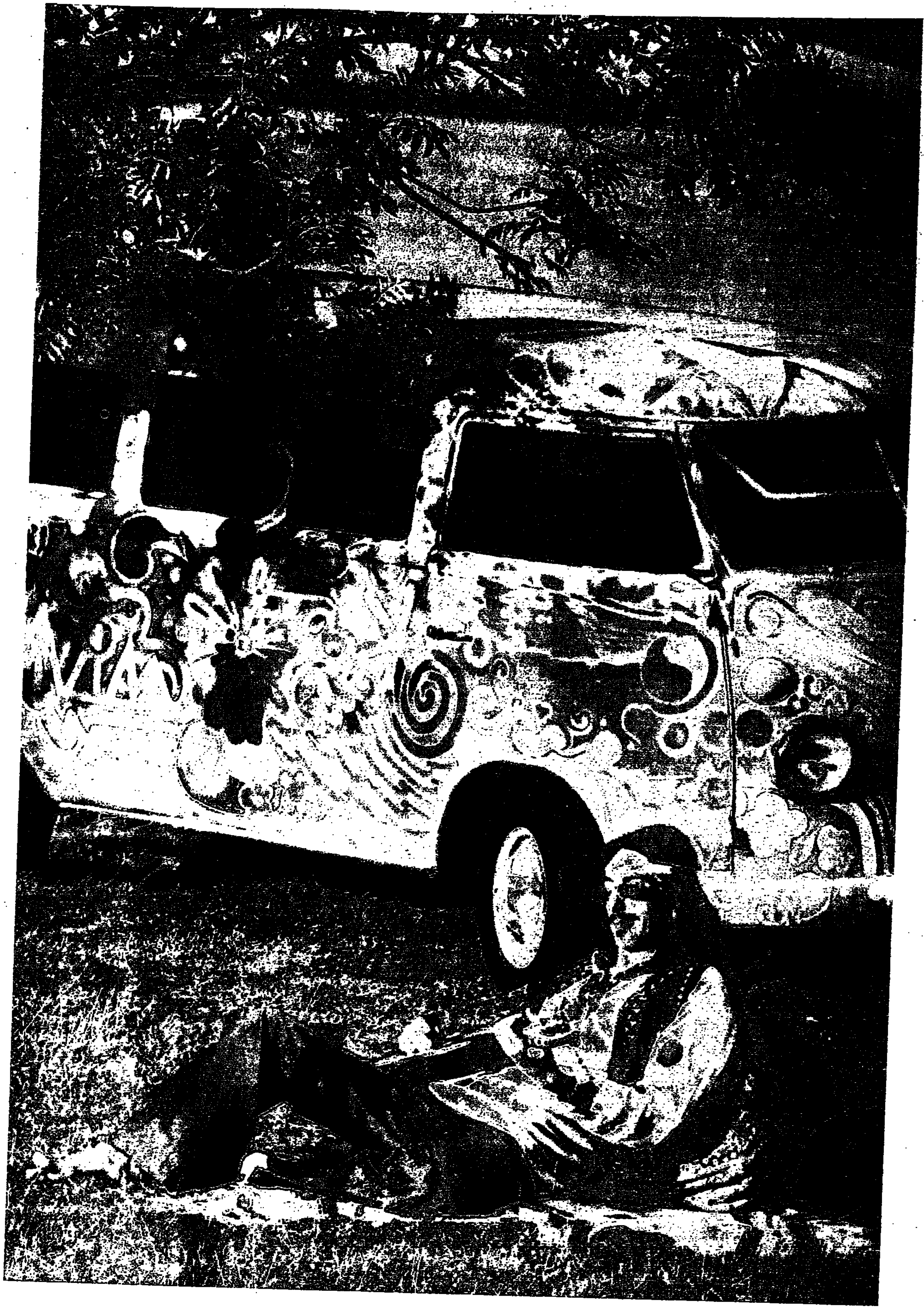

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BBC films story of Julie Ward murder

By Russell Jenkins

THE BBC is planning a full-length feature film about the murder of Julie Ward in the African bush and her father's seven-year hunt for her killers. The 28-year-old publisher's assistant was tortured, clubbed to death and dismembered while travelling alone in the Masai Mara game reserve in Kenya in 1988. Her body was left to be devoured by wild animals.

Since then her father, John, who owns a chain of hotels in East Anglia, has sought to determine exactly what happened to his daughter. Mr Ward, 61, has turned down previous approaches by film makers but has now agreed to work as a consultant on the film, which the the corporation describes as "essentially an adventure story".

It will show Mr Ward, who has spent more than £500,000 on 50 trips to Kenya, coming face to face with the man who allegedly struck the blow that killed his daughter. The film, which may be shown in cinemas before it is shown on television, has a budget of £1.75 million and is being scripted by Allan Scott, who wrote the script for *Castaway*, the story of Lucy Irving's year on a desert island. Filming is due to begin in the new year on location in Tanzania, South Africa or Zimbabwe.

Julie Ward: was killed in the Masai Mara

Mr Ward, of Brockley Green, Suffolk, said: "I believe it is important that the whole story is told with integrity and sensitivity. I have faith that the BBC is the right organisation to handle it this way. In the past few years I have been contacted by between ten and 15 film companies but did not like the sound of what they planned and I wanted to retain some control."

Mr Ward added: "One woman from the West Coast of the United States rang and told me the story had a girl, animals, a safari park and a murder, which would make it a great film. It just made me cringe."

The third draft of the BBC script has been completed and is being studied by lawyers. Mr Ward said: "We want the film to be as up-to-date as possible and hope to include the latest developments. I do not know how I will feel when I see it."

Two game wardens were cleared of Miss Ward's murder at a trial in Nairobi in 1992 when the judge ruled there had been a cover-up by the police and the Government. Mr Ward believes that he has fresh evidence that will show that Miss Ward stumbled across smugglers and was murdered to protect the identities of senior figures in Kenyan society.

He has taken a statement from Valentine Kodipo, 34, a former member of a Kenyan government death squad, who claims he witnessed the murder. Mr Kodipo is in hiding in Norway, where Mr Ward is flying today in the hope of speaking to a second possible witness.

He has also served a writ in Kenya against the Government in an attempt to claim back the money that he has spent on his investigation.

Paul Almond, a BBC spokesman, said: "It is one man's lone search to discover who murdered his daughter Julie in Kenya in 1988. It really is an adventure story with a conclusion.

"It shows him uncovering details of corruption and finally coming face to face with the man who is alleged to have killed his daughter."

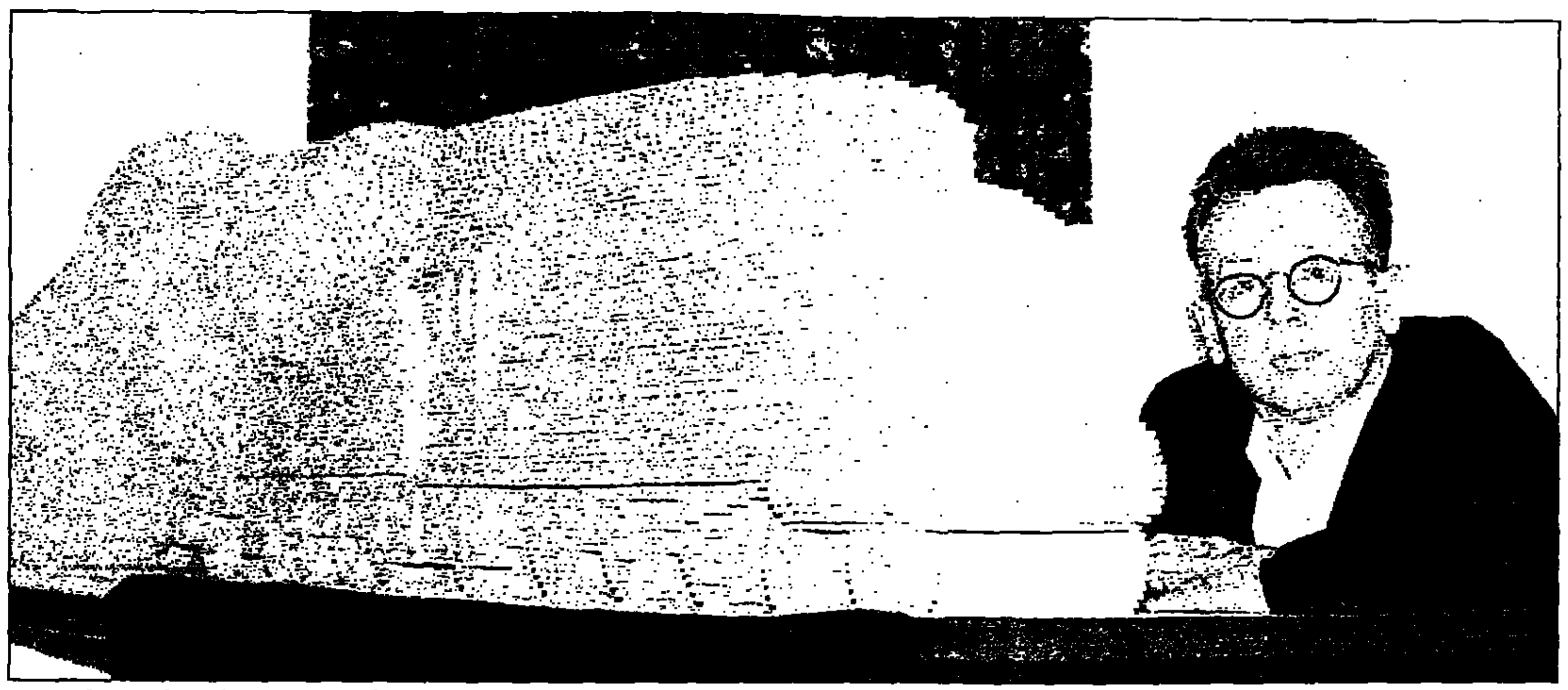
The BBC countered possible criticism that it was producing entertainment from a tragedy. The spokesman said the corporation did not envisage any controversy because of Mr Ward's willing participation in the project. Mr Almond said: "It is likely to be one of the biggest single films made by the BBC next year and should be ready towards the end of the year.

"We will not be telling the story in a sensational way. We will be dealing with it in a responsible manner and at the same time telling a great adventure story. We have been discussing the possibility of a film for some years and are delighted it is finally happening.

"It will tell of one man's lone search to discover the truth about his daughter's death."

£600,000 brick train fuels row over funds for art

By Dalya Alberge and Paul Wilkinson



David Mach with the model of his brick train to be built in front of a new supermarket in Darlington. The work will need 350,000 bricks

A DECISION to spend £600,000 of public money on a brick steam engine has added to the backlash over public art projects, now enjoying a boom fuelled by National Lottery cash and a rush to mark the millennium.

David Mach, 39, a Scottish-born artist living in London, has been commissioned to build the 150ft by 30ft model outside a new supermarket in Darlington, Co Durham. It will require 350,000 house bricks, enough to build 25 average semis.

Most of the cost of the structure will be met by National Lottery grants, with Darlington council contributing a further £10,000, Northern Arts £30,000 and Morrison's, the supermarket group, £40,000.

The spending of large sums of public money on imaginative art projects has been contrasted with the plight of hospitals and schools struggling to make ends meet.

The 45ft stretch of laminated glass at Greenwich, southwest London, created by Vong Phaophanit, who was nominated for the Turner Prize last year for filling a room with rice, was vandalised by stone-throwing protesters. The work was commissioned in 1992 at a reported cost of £60,000. Local people dismissed it as rubbish and a waste of taxpayers' money.

Earlier this year, a Henry Moore bronze, *King and Queen*, in Dumfriesshire, and *Sumo Wrestlers*, in Edinburgh, also by David Mach, were decapitated. Richard Serra's walk-in tower of three metal slabs, entitled *Fulcrum*, at the Broadgate Centre in the City of London, is often used as a urinal.

The outcry over Antony Gormley, winner of the 1994 Turner Prize, who planned to site his steel *Angel* with a 170ft wingspan along a busy road in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, was partly because the £300,000 public project was seen as a dangerous distraction for motorists.

The shock of the new can turn to affection, however. Alan Sykes, of Northern Sights, which is co-ordinating exhibitions and activities for the Year of the Visual Arts in 1996, said that Claes Oldenburg's giant *Bottle of Notes* was ridiculed before the people of Middlesbrough had seen it. But it is now almost an emblem of the town and is proudly shown on T-shirts. Another unusual sculpture, by Gordon Young, also in Gateshead, showed that a work in place can win people round. His monumental granite quartz figures of a family group were vehemently attacked. Several years later, people like to pose with the figures for their wedding photographs.

Andy Goldsworthy is finding that his latest sculpture of sheepfolds on Cumbrian hills is so inspiring the local community that farmers are queuing to have him work on their land next month.

Perhaps it is the idea of modern art that upsets people, rather than the product. Back in Darlington, future home of the brick train, Peter Jones, a Conservative county councillor who lives in the town, said: "The last man to get away with something like this was Ronnie Biggs and we're still chasing him. Darlington needs another model of a train like a hole in the head."

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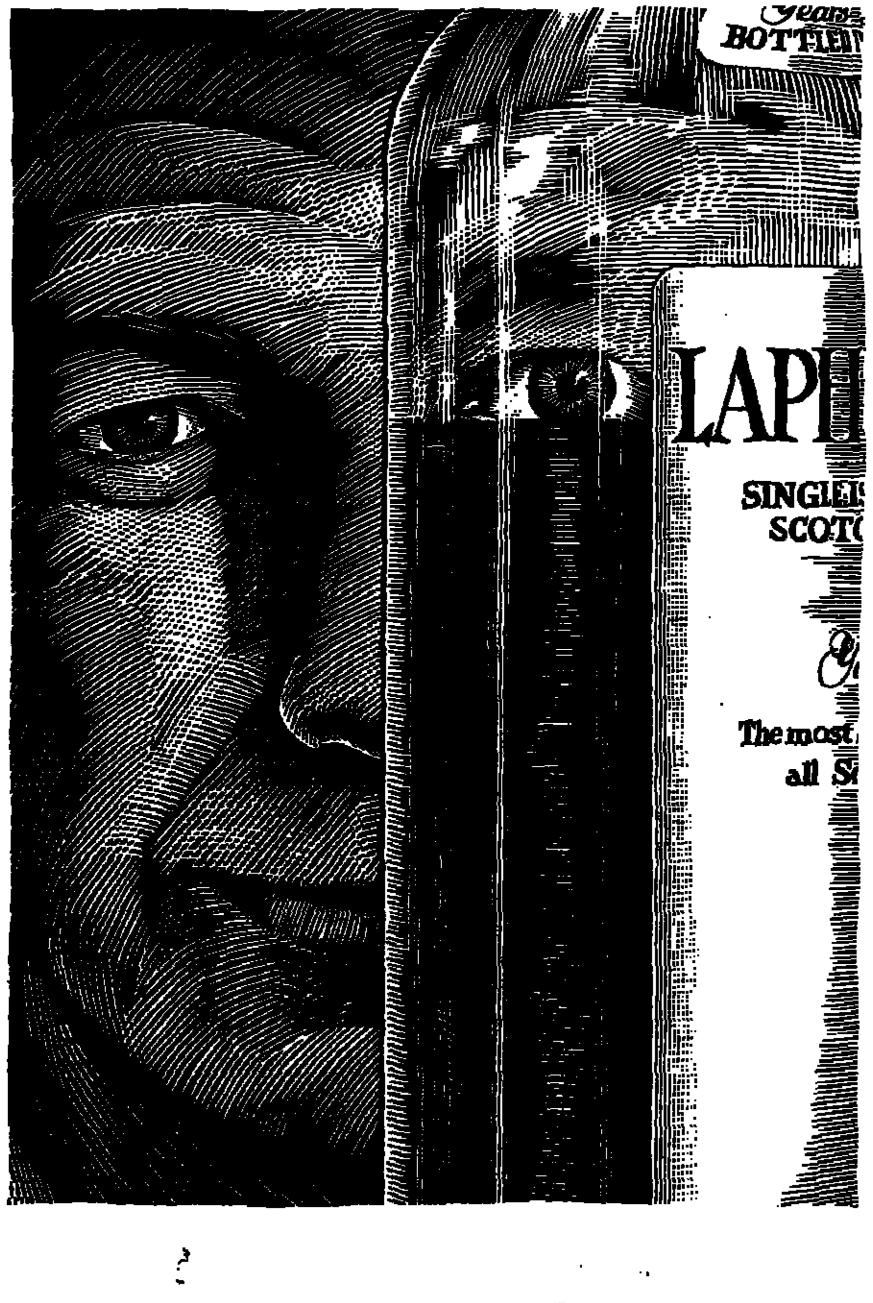

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Credo

End-of-term carols begin countdown to Nativity joy

Paul Bradshaw

A religious festival or season will usually flourish only so long as people can still find in it some meaning that connects with their everyday lives. Otherwise it will be in danger of disappearing altogether.

The Christian season of Advent looks as if it could be heading that way. What makes things more difficult is that Advent never had a single origin nor one clearly defined meaning. Although much of its early history is shrouded in mystery, we hear of Christians in the fourth century who intensified their regular practices of fasting around the month of December. We are not sure why they did this. They may have been continuing an ancient pagan custom connected with agriculture or they may have been trying to keep people away from the excesses of the pagan winter solstice celebrations (church leaders quickly found, however, that the creation of Christian feasts rather than fasts generally provided a more effective counter-attraction to such things.)

But the period was not, as yet, a liturgical season: it was an ascetic discipline in which believers were encouraged to reflect on their unworthiness to appear before God. So the choice of appropriate Bible readings for the regular Sunday services at this time of the year continued independently of it.

In some places, one or two Sundays immediately before Christmas were given over to texts that related to God's preparation for the coming of the Messiah, such as the Annunciation or the mission of John the Baptist.

But generally the Sundays were treated as the *end* of the previous liturgical year rather than the beginning of the new, and were assigned readings appropriate to that role, concerned with the joyous hope of Christ's final coming in glory.

Thus the Advent season that emerged later in Western Christianity (of anything up to six weeks' duration in some places and now thought of as the beginning of the Church's year) was something of a mixture. The liturgical texts primarily spoke of the joyful expectation of both the Second and First Comings of Christ, but the underlying penitential piety of the fast emphasised fearful preparation for the End Time and gave rise to a focus on what were known as the Four Last Things — death, judgment, heaven and hell.

Some Christians want to keep to this pattern today but others find it out of alignment with their Christian experience. For them, December 25 is not the beginning of their celebration of Christmas, but its climax — and very near its end. They will have been present at numerous carol services, Nativity plays and other such occasions before that day is reached. And rather than intensifying their fasting, they will probably have attended several Christmas lunches and parties, some perhaps with Christian organisations.

In any case, in many churches the theme of Christ's final coming in glory as king will nowadays have already been celebrated at an earlier point in the year.

Instead of feeling somewhat guilty about their anticipation of Christmas cheer, such people should be encouraged to see the Advent season more positively: a time for the joyful remembrance and celebrations of all that God has done for human salvation, from the beginning of time, through the call of his chosen people, and on to the preparations for the coming of the Messiah, culminating in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

☐ *The Rev Dr Paul F. Bradshaw is Professor of Liturgy, University of Notre Dame, Indiana, and Priest Vicar, St Margaret's, Westminster Abbey.*

School Nativities
Weekend pages 1, 3
At Your Service,
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The Times Christmas Appeal: new techniques aim to reduce side-effects

Pioneers try to cut brain cancer risks

By John Young

SIMON WALKER

Dr Brada preparing a young patient for radiotherapy. More than half the British children diagnosed with brain tumours every year survive

THE word cancer frightens many people. Applied to children, its terrors are intensified. If the cancer takes the form of a brain tumour, it is almost too awful to contemplate.

Yet brain tumours are the second most common form of cancer in children, exceeded only by leukaemia. Not only that, but many of them can be removed by surgery or, more commonly, by a combination of surgery and radiotherapy. Of the 350 to 400 children in Britain diagnosed with brain tumours every year, more than half survive into adulthood.

There are many different forms of brain tumour, and in some types, though sadly not the commonest, a cure rate of between 80 and 90 per cent can be expected. In the commonest, medulloblastoma, the cure rate is still more than 50 per cent.

"But of course that is not enough," says Dr Michael Brada. For the past ten years Dr Brada, 45, has been senior lecturer at the Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton, south London, and consultant in clinical oncology at the adjoining Royal Marsden Hospital. "I think the dread of brain cancer is greater than that of any other kind. In some cases we can give a very optimistic prognosis, but the lingering dread remains, even if it is not always justified.

"About one quarter of brain tumours are incurable because none of the treatments we have at present is effective," he adds. "We are exploring the possible improvement of existing techniques and are experimenting with drugs. But research into brain cancer is generally underfunded because in adults it is much less common than, for example, lung or breast cancer."

The treatment of brain tumours was pioneered about 30 years ago by Dr Julian Bloom, who developed the use of radiotherapy, which is still the main hope for effecting a cure. Dr Brada's research at present is concentrated on developing a more refined technique, known as stereotactic radiotherapy, which focuses specifically on the tumour. The new technique allows the surrounding area of the brain to be protected from the side-effects of radiation which, particularly in a young child, can damage development. But in some cases the broad-brush approach is still needed.

"We are the pioneers in this technique," he says. "It has since been adopted by six other cancer treatment centres, and we have held several highly successful seminars. But it won't replace surgery altogether, because some tumours can be removed without radiation." There is always a need to strike a delicate balance.

THE TIMES Christmas Appeal in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital

Researchers at Sutton are also working on new forms of gene therapy and antibody therapy, the latter christened the "magic bullet".

Dr Brada is concerned about recent publicity given to children travelling abroad because their parents believe they can get better treatment. He maintains that there is no treatment available in any other country that is not available in the United Kingdom.

Medical research in the rich, developed countries has reached much the same stage. Knowledge of the latest techniques and findings is widely exchanged and disseminated, and it is inconceivable that specialists in one country would be unaware of developments in another.

"I feel sad when newspaper accounts raise parents' expectations and readers' emotions," he says. "There is no need for anyone to go to the United States for treatment, because it is all available here. Children are never denied treatment, and a second opinion is always available."

Dr Brada emphasises that modern treatments have been highly successful in suppressing pain. "Everyone here is acutely aware that pain is unacceptable, and if it threatens we ensure that the patient does not suffer. Even if we can't cure a child, we must ensure that he or she enjoys the best quality of life possible for as long as possible."

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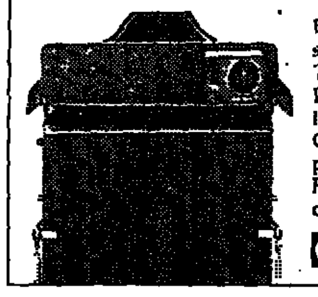

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'Collins English Dictionary is the finest dictionary in all the land!'

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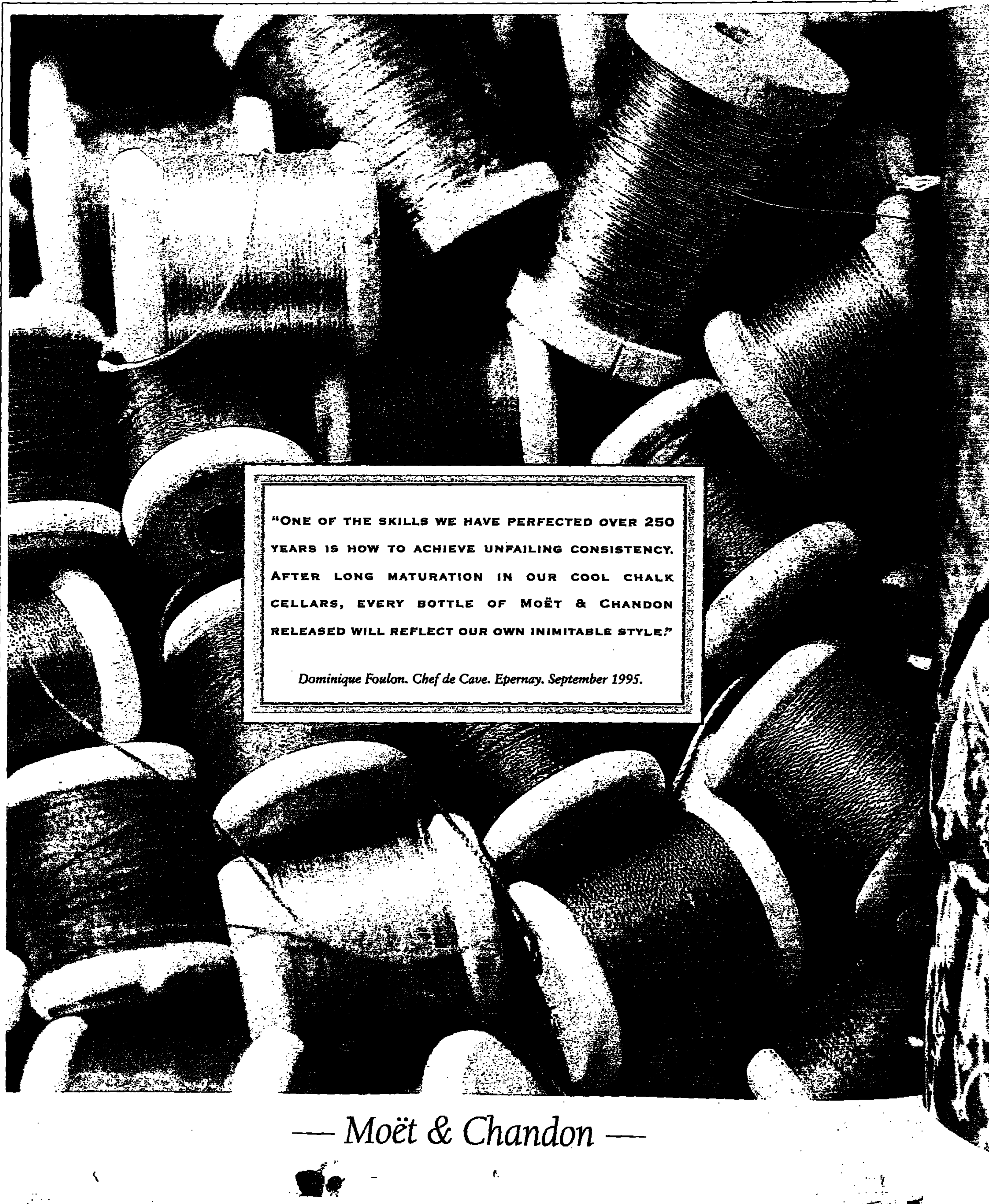

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Dominique Foulon. Chef de Cave. Epernay. September 1995.

— Moët & Chandon —

هكذا من الاصل

Woolworths puts a whiff of Christmas in the air

By Robin Young and Nigel Hawkes

THE scent of mulled wine wafting around 20 Woolworths stores this Christmas may give the public an early whiff of the next retailing revolution. The current wonder of Woolies is a festive fragrance to go with the holly, tinsel and Christmas music.

In the United States supermarkets regularly pump the artificial smells of baking bread or percolating coffee into the air conditioning to whet customers' appetites. In Japan, companies add aromas to help employees to concentrate or to relieve stress.

Other British companies are expected to follow Woolworths and are monitoring the venture closely. Sketchley, the dry cleaner, has been experimenting with scents of new-mown grass and of grapefruit to disguise the less agreeable smell of cleaning chemicals, and BT is considering perfuming its public call boxes.

"Smell is the strongest stimulant to our irrational expectations," said Richard Zambuni, deputy managing director of the marketing specialists CLK. "It can change our mood, and its potential to benefit sales is well understood." Woolworths said: "Customers seem to like it. It is our way of accentuating the Christmas spirit."

The scent, which wafts around the Christmas Shop in the company's 20 leading stores, was preferred in sniffing tests to the smells of other Christmas aromas, including cloves and Christmas pudding.

"Mulled wine was a clear winner with our testing team, even though we understand that the fragrance is strictly non-alcoholic," the spokeswoman said. The scent, and the automated system for spreading it, is provided by BOC Gases, whose business development manager, Evelyn Shervington, invented a similar system to dispense pesticides against cockroaches, flies and mosquitoes in Australia and the Far East.

The secret of adding the scent of mulled wine or plum pudding lies in a small gas canister in the corner of the store. Controlled by a timer, the canister issues a tiny puff of the aroma for half a second every quarter of an hour. This is enough to fill the store with Chrismas smells and, so the management hopes, inspire a rush of buying.

Using smells to create the right atmosphere is not new. People selling houses are advised to brew coffee before potential buyers arrive. What is new is the technology for dispensing different aromas.

BOC takes its customers to international fragrance houses, who stock a huge range of aromas and can create new ones by blending. The customers choose their scent and BOC dissolves it in carbon dioxide.

In the store, each tiny puff carries molecules of the scent into the air. "Unlike an aerosol it doesn't form droplets," Mr Shervington said. "The result is much more natural, more like a real smell would be. Each canister lasts about a week, then we supply another."

The method is not limited to stores. Madame Tussaud's uses it to create the dank smells of old London, while video-game manufacturers can enhance their games by adding the scent of burning rubber to a car chase.

Leading article, page 19

Divided shoppers mull it over

By Leyla Linton

NOSES twitched and faces took on puzzled expressions when shoppers were asked to identify the fragrance which Woolworths hopes will boost its Christmas takings.

The scent wafting around the Edgware Road branch in London yesterday was supposed to be mulled wine. Customers were less sure.

Jackie Gallagher, 31, said: "I don't know what it is. it's not a smell I like. I'm pregnant so these kinds of smells often make me feel sick and I won't be staying here long."

About half the customers could not smell anything. But Amanda Hogan, 22, said: "I know what it is. I really love this smell. It's orange and cloves, isn't it? It smells really Christmassy and I probably will linger and buy some more things."

Jane Bland, 28, said: "What is it? Pot pourri or mulled wine? I don't really like it and it wouldn't make me stay and buy something." Daksha Shastir, 30, said: "I don't know what it is but I suppose it's all right."

Patricia Cooper, 63, said: "It's not very strong but it's quite nice. It's a warm kind of smell, so if it was cold outside I would stay longer."

Amanda Hogan: aroma would make her linger

ASHLEY COOMBES

Maureen Cullen, a nurse, with an eight-week-old boy who was abandoned at Heartlands Hospital in Birmingham yesterday. Police are studying security videos and a letter left with the baby, who has been named Jimmy after a nurse

NEWS IN BRIEF

West case juror is remanded

A man who was dismissed from the jury trying Rosemary West appeared in court yesterday charged with assault, affray and criminal damage. Tyrone Gillam, 23, from Basingstoke, Hampshire, was released on bail when Basingstoke magistrates adjourned the case to January 5.

Murder charge

A 13-year-old boy has appeared in court in Southampton charged with murdering a tramp who was set alight on a park bench. Alan Whittle, 50, died 20 days later. The case was adjourned.

Poets honoured

The poets Sir John Betjeman and A.E. Housman are be honoured with memorials in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey. The memorials will be unveiled separately in the spring or summer.

Radiator alert

Thousands of Dimplex oil-filled electric radiators are being withdrawn because they could catch fire or leak dangerous fumes. The model numbers are CR1507, CR2009, CR2009T and BQ15CR.

Late arrival

A train pass lost by a Devonshire schoolboy in 1925 has been posted back to him by British Rail. Ken Samson, now 79, had been travelling from his home in Axminster to Exeter for a piano exam.

Zito widow sues husband's killer

By A Staff Reporter

THE widow of Jonathan Zito, who was stabbed to death by a schizophrenic, began a legal action to claim for damages from her husband's killer, Christopher Clunis, yesterday. The move comes a day after Clunis began a High Court action against Camden and Islington Health Authority for "failure to care" for him in the community.

Jayne Zito says that Clunis, who stabbed her husband, a musician aged 27, in the eye at a London Underground station three years ago, should not benefit from the death of her husband. It is thought that Clunis's solicitors are seeking damages of at least £50,000.

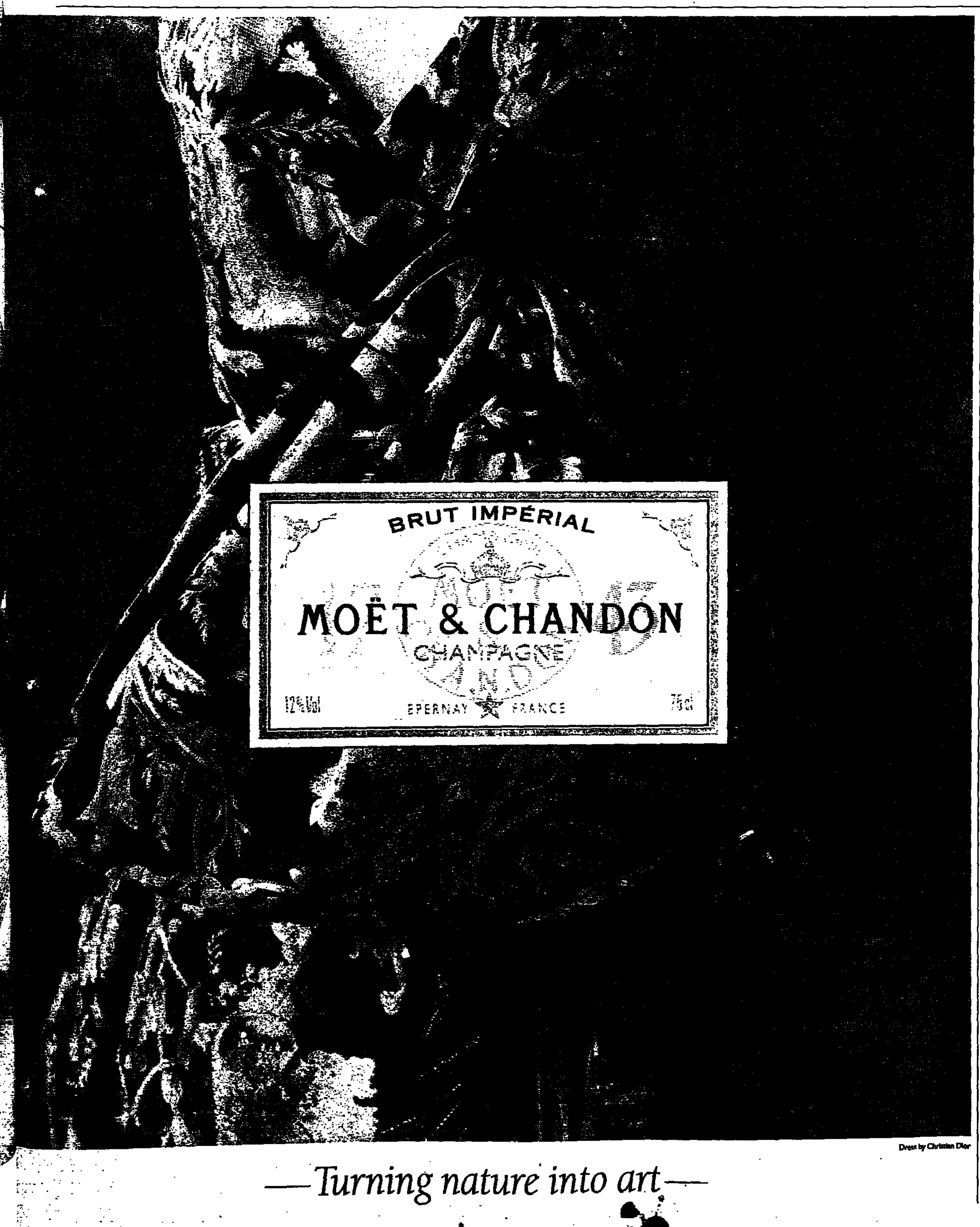
Mrs Zito's action against Clunis, for a six-figure sum, is for damages for trespass to the person and/or assault and battery. This is the only legal option open to her; she cannot sue the authority herself.

Clunis, 33, was ordered to be detained indefinitely at Rampton hospital for manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

Mrs Zito said in a statement yesterday: "The action taken by Clunis will provoke a strong response from the public. Should mental health patients who go on to kill receive compensation? This is now a matter for the courts to decide. I have commenced proceedings against Clunis as a matter of principle for I do not believe he should benefit from the death of my husband."

Her solicitor, Sally Moore, said that Mrs Zito could win her case, irrespective of the outcome of Clunis's action, but would in practice receive payment for damages only if his claim was successful.

A report into the Clunis case last year referred to failures by doctors, social workers and police, claiming that Clunis's care and treatment constituted a "catalogue of failure and missed opportunity".



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Cautious Major brushed aside while fellow leaders fall into line behind Kohl

Euro-babble as 16 men put seal on new line in money

From Charles Bremner in Madrid

Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, greets Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, as John Major talks to Felipe González in Madrid

A GARGLING sound rippled yesterday through the cavernous hangar from which Europe's media are observing their leaders in conclave outside Madrid. The chorus sprang from 2,000 tongues trying to get themselves around "Euro", the unlovely name bestowed yesterday on the currency which will fill the wallets of the Union's lucky few from January 2002.

Oihro, eoourro, ero, evra — there was consensus that the German-inspired successor to the Ecu sounds bad in all the Union's 11 official languages. How, wondered the Danes, should they say it? *Oiro* or *eoro*? Greek journalists took time away from a 24-hour strike to argue that *evro* was barely pronounceable and unwriteable in their language — not that it mattered since they would never join. The most tortured sound came, however, from Britons trying to say *un Euro* in French, a challenge which should be become compulsory for the A-level oral.

John Major told his partners that there was not much point in worrying about the name of a baby, as he put it, before the mother was even pregnant. But, assuming the fertility of Mother Europe, future generations may marvel at the quick and casual way in which their coinage was christened by the 16 men sitting round the table. "There was not much enthusiasm for talking about the name," Pedro Solbes, the Spanish Finance Minister, said. It was a matter of a quick decision to satisfy the citizenry before the statesmen could tackle weightier matters such as the issue of the ins and the "pre-ins" as the Brussels people prefer to call the majority of EU states which will be excluded from the magic monetary circle.

MADRID SUMMIT

Mr Major won a few murmurs of assent when he suggested florin, crown or shilling as preferable to the truncated *E-word* whose progressive overtones faded with the fashion for bell-bottoms except in Belgium, where the telephone book lists two pages of "Euro" businesses.

President Chirac was the only one to take a stand against Helmut Kohl's insistence on ditching the Ecu. Why not, he wondered, ask the citizens before foisting a name on them? A bad idea, retorted the Chancellor. The people would tell pollsters they wanted to call it the Euro-mark. One by one, the leaders fell in line with Germany's desire to scrap the ever-shrinking European currency unit, a word too close to *kuhe* (cow) for German ears. Only Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister and author of the name, voiced pride in his offspring. He had not noticed the exact time of the historic decision, he said. "I did not look at my watch. I was so pleased that my name had been chosen that I only looked into people's eyes and hearts." For Jacques Santer, the Commission President, any name was fine as long as they picked it now.

Britain still has a linguistic opt-out on one sore point — the gender of the new baby. After all, pesetas, lire and marks are feminine, as pounds usually are in the Latin tongues, while francs and florins are masculine. More contentious is the suffix question. The French announced that no country would be allowed to append their national currency, giving Eurofranc or Euroguilder, while German officials said exactly the opposite. A whole new naming squabble is opening up on the matter of what to call the decimal units, assuming there will be 100. Jean Arthuis, the French Finance Minister, said France would settle for centimes. Not so fast, said the Germans, who are fond of their pfennigs. The decision will be left to Finance Ministers, along with the matter of coming up with a design for banknotes. Will national symbols be included? Will the Euro-bank promise to pay the bearer in 11 languages?

Europe's leaders were putting aside such obstacles yesterday to exult in what all but Mr Major were depicting as a momentous day for Europe. While M Chirac gushed about grandeur, the prize for enthusiasm went to Antonion Guterres, the new Prime Minister of Portugal, who said: "Just as Christ was the rock on which Christianity was built, the single currency is the rock on which Europe will be constructed."

Leading article and letters, page 19

British warning on elitism of monetary union

From Philip Webster, Political Editor, in Madrid

JOHN MAJOR preceded the European Union's decision to name the single currency the "Euro" with his strongest warning yet to his fellow leaders that they would cause chaos across Europe if they mishandled its introduction.

As he tabled his proposal for a full-scale study into the implications of a new currency in which only a minority of members took part, Mr Major suggested they could be moving into *Alice in Wonderland* territory. The Prime Minister was listened to politely by his partners, but none answered his questions and the summit proceeded to name the new currency and confirm the timetable for creating it.

Mr Major told them there was a danger of creating a new "privileged elite" of countries within the single currency system who would be heavily outnumbered by a big majority outside as more new members joined the Union.

In his address to the Madrid summit, he said the economic and monetary union decision would involve an irreversible replacement of national currencies, some of which had been in existence for centuries. "This decision will affect everybody whether or not they take part in stage three. No one will be unaffected. Therefore, we should not take this decision without being aware of the consequences and being prepared to face them." He said it was vital to ensure that EMU built on the single market and did not set it back, and vital to ensure that it did not introduce new divisions into the EU. "I want a Europe that works, a successful Europe and not a divided Europe."

He refused to contemplate any weakening of the convergence criteria governing entry, saying it would be "folly beyond belief" not to stick to it. He said, perhaps, only a small minority of countries would be ready or willing to join a single currency. Against that background, the term "single currency" was a bit of a misnomer, Mr Major said. The new currency would, in those circumstances, be one among as many as ten currencies in the EU, and covering less than half the population.

He rejected any idea of Britain taking part in a "compulsory" exchange-rate mechanism for countries left outside the single currency. "All the painful history of the past three years suggests a single, rigid ERM system would not work," he said.

Mr Major said it only made sense to take decisions on who qualified for EMU after 1997. Before then, the forecasts would not be reliable enough.

He said he found it hard to see the question of the name of the currency as the key one; it was secondary to the wider issue of the relationship between the "ins" and the "outs".

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First French trains for 22 days signal end of strike

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

A passenger at St Lazare station in Paris leaves the first train to arrive from Lille yesterday

LIKE some vast locomotive, dilapidated from long disuse, the French public transport system slowly creaked back to life yesterday as the longest, angriest and most damaging strike since 1968 appeared to be nearing an end.

After a stoppage lasting more than three weeks, the majority of rail workers "decided to suspend the strike", one of the two most militant unions announced.

Some rail union branches vowed to continue the stoppage for an extra 24 hours as strike leaders called for another day of mass demonstrations today in opposition to government plans to overhaul the welfare system.

Several lines on the Paris Metro and a few suburban trains were back in operation yesterday. The entire rail system, paralysed since November 24, will be functioning again by Tuesday, Bernard Pons, the Transport Minister, predicted.

In a moment of heavy symbolism, the first high-speed TGV train left Lille for the outskirts of Paris yesterday morning carrying just ten passengers, as regional services started to move again in the north and the east.

In Paris, where commuters have been denied public transport for 22 days, the first signs that the city was returning to normal were greeted with disbelief, relief and then resentment. "What a miracle! It's a train!" declared a sarcastic headline in *France-Soir*.

All but a handful of postal workers have returned to work and less than 5 per cent of public sector employees were on strike last night. Air travel was only slightly disrupted by calls for a one-day traffic controllers' strike, but the Eurostar London-to-Paris service was at a standstill.

Both sides in the dispute can claim victory of a sort. A plan to overhaul the state-owned SNCF rail network and threatened reform of civil service pensions — the two initial catalysts for the strike — have been shelved by Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister.

The unions are keeping up a steady barrage of opposition to welfare reforms but, as the rail branch of the CGT union observed yesterday, "the strikers have received satisfaction on most of their demands". M Juppé, on the other hand, has not sacrificed the central elements in his plan to overhaul the welfare system, part of a general austerity drive to reduce France's deficit in time for European monetary union.

Nearly two-thirds of the smaller businesses in Paris have been hard hit and many face bankruptcy. As France slowly begins to move again, exhausted commuters, reeling businesses and the Government at least have the consolation of knowing that the run-up to Christmas will not have to take place on foot.

☐ **Nice:** The election in June of Jean-Marie Le Chevallier, the Mayor of Toulon, France's largest city to be governed by the extreme-right National Front, was null and void, an administrative court has ruled. *(AP)*

Populist plays on Austrians' angst

From Michael Kallenbach in Vienna

AUSTRIANS are having a hard time trying to work out what exactly Jörg Haider stands for and who he is: opportunist, playboy or neo-Fascist.

In the run-up to tomorrow's election, he has played on their emotions, promising to keep Austria free of foreigners and corruption, and as far away from the European Union as possible. He has emerged as the most successful right-wing populist on the European political scene, and is proud of this image.

He said in an interview with *The Times*: "I do not put fear into the people, but I am waking them up. I consider myself a modern politician who gives good prospects about the future." Asked about his xenophobic rhetoric with its Third Reich images, he said: "The Jewish people need have no fear. I always support the Jewish people."

Yet his smiling face on his posters, bearing the slogan "*Haider kommt!*" (Haider's coming), has been defaced almost everywhere on Vienna's snow-covered streets, with either a Hitleresque moustache or a swastika. "I blame all the young Socialists for that," Herr Haider said.

His opponents reluctantly agree that the issues he has raised, such as corruption and the rise of foreigners, are boils that needed to be lanced. His Freedom Party has notched up 25 per cent support in recent opinion polls, just trailing behind the Socialists and the conservatives, whose coalition collapsed in September over a budgetary row.

"I'm not against foreigners," Herr Haider, whose parents were Nazis, professed during the campaign, "but rather I am in favour of keeping Austria for the Austrians."

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the opening of eastern borders, the number of foreigners entering Austria has almost doubled. In 1988, it was 356,488: last year, it grew to 720,911, and many of them cash in on social benefits.

"One of his themes has been to bash away at the foreigners," said Professor Fritz Plasser, of the University of Innsbruck. "And he has had more impact than any other leader in France, Italy or Germany."

Whether or not he wins tomorrow, Herr Haider is likely to be a force to be reckoned with as he pursues his ambition to be Chancellor. Many young voters find him an attractive alternative to Franz Vranitzky, the Socialist leader, and Wolfgang Schüssel, the conservative chief.

Despite Herr Haider's appeal, most Austrians hope that the status quo of the Socialist-conservative coalition will emerge as winners in the election. Then normality can return and they can tuck into their apple strudel and cream until the next time their cosy world is shaken by the ambitious Herr Haider.

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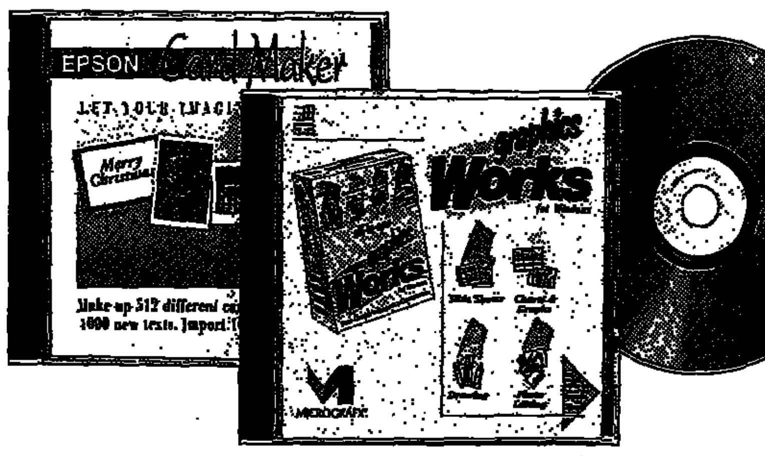

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Dissident Wang linked by China to Wei 'conspiracy'

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA'S second most famous dissident, Wang Dan, has been named as a co-conspirator with Wei Jingsheng, who was sentenced to 14 years in jail earlier this week.

Reuters news agency in Peking reported yesterday having seen an official court document linking Mr Wang to Wei in an alleged conspiracy to overthrow the State.

Mr Wang, who served four years behind bars for having been one of the top student "black hands" in the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989, was interrogated by the police throughout last spring, was detained again in May just before the sixth anniversary of the protests, and has not been seen since. Wei had vanished into police custody for 20 months before being charged with subversion last month.

Wei Xiaotao, the jailed man's younger brother, said yesterday that he would die in prison. "He's been locked up for 14 years. He won't be able to hold out for another 14 years. He has heart disease and high blood pressure." Wei remained seated throughout his five-hour trial, and was granted a 30-minute recess to take medicine. The younger Mr Wei also took responsibility for setting up the Hong Kong trading company, a nominal shell, which was a key piece of evidence against his brother. Wei was accused of establishing the firm to finance his political activities.

Wang: accused of bid to overthrow State

The brother said the Hong Kong company was set up, with the help of a journalist based in the colony, in March 1993, six months before Wei's brief release from prison after almost 15 years in solitary confinement.

Several Hong Kong papers reported yesterday that their investigations of company records indicated that the firm allegedly bought by Wei had been purchased by his brother for less than £1,000, and never made any money, and was closed several months ago. But Peking-funded papers in Hong Kong referred to "huge bank accounts deposited by Wei's Western masters". *Ta Kong Pao* said that Wei deserved his suffering as a puppet of the West.

An armed Palestinian policeman stands guard on a roof in Nablus above a poster of Yassir Arafat, who began his election campaign in the West Bank city yesterday

Arafat launches presidential bid

FROM ROSS DUNN IN NABLUS AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

YASSIR ARAFAT, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, yesterday launched his campaign to be elected President of the Palestinian people, in the city where his followers have been most divided.

Mr Arafat formally registered his candidacy in Nablus, the largest Arab city on the West Bank, and the scene of a violent power struggle in recent months between Palestinian youths and wealthy families. Standing on the roof of the former Israeli military headquarters, the PLO leader was hailed by tens of thousands of people.

Voting for the presidency and 83 members of the Palestinian Council is to take place on January 20.

Earlier this week, Israeli soldiers withdrew from Nablus after almost 28 years. Palestinian youths, some of whom have been terrorising residents of Nablus for months and have been celebrating the Israeli withdrawal by shooting into the air, were silent yesterday after warnings from the Palestinian police. Hopes of peace spreading further in the Middle East have been raised by senior diplomatic sources in Jerusalem and Washington.

The sources say that America is planning to set up talks between Israel and Syria similar to those in Dayton, Ohio, which this week led to the signing of the Bosnia-Herzegovina peace accord in Paris.

Officials say the plan would involve intensive shuttle diplomacy early in the new year by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, who arrived in Jerusalem last night after talks with President Assad in Damascus. This would be followed by Dayton-style negotiations in America designed to produce a "land-for-peace" deal before Israeli elections scheduled for next October.

The diplomat claimed that the new efforts to resolve differences over the details of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights had been underpinned by secret contacts between Israel and Syria at various European locations designed to work out future security arrangements to satisfy Israel.

Moroccan Muslims face test

FROM MARK HUBAND IN RABAT

MOROCCO'S illegal Islamic movement was last night facing a test of strength with the Government after police allowed the group's leader to leave his house for two hours and preach at a mosque for the first time in six years, but then reimposed an order of house arrest.

More than 1,000 supporters of 67-year-old Abdessalam Yassine, leader of the Justice and Spirituality Islamic movement, packed the mosque in Sale yesterday. The cleric prayed and then spoke for 45 minutes, preaching against violence.

Sources within the Islamic group said they had known on Tuesday that the Government was planning to adopt a new approach to the increasingly popular Islamic movement.

Pressure for Mr Yassine's release mounted this week when opposition parties publicly called for the house arrest to be lifted. Senior government sources said yesterday that a statement regarding his status was expected next week.

Muhammad Ziyane, Morocco's Human Rights Minister, said this week that, if Mr Yassine were to be allowed freedom of movement, it would be on the basis that any political party he formed would have to be non-Islamic.

Asean bar on nuclear weapons

FROM REUTER IN BANGKOK

SOUTH-EAST Asian nations yesterday signed a treaty that stakes out a huge nuclear-free zone, demonstrating the vibrant region's growing self-confidence but drawing objections from the United States and China.

The treaty, signed at the end of a three-yearly summit of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean), bans the possession, manufacture and acquisition of nuclear weapons in an area stretching from Burma and Vietnam in the north to Indonesia in the south.

It was signed by the leaders of the seven Asean countries — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — and their neighbours, Burma, Cambodia and Laos.

☐ New York: An American-led consortium and North Korea signed an agreement for the supply of two light-water nuclear reactors to Pyongyang in a deal involving a halt to the North Koreans' present nuclear programme. *(AFP)*

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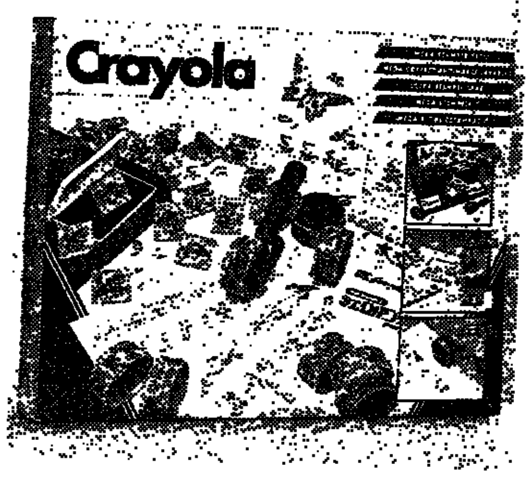
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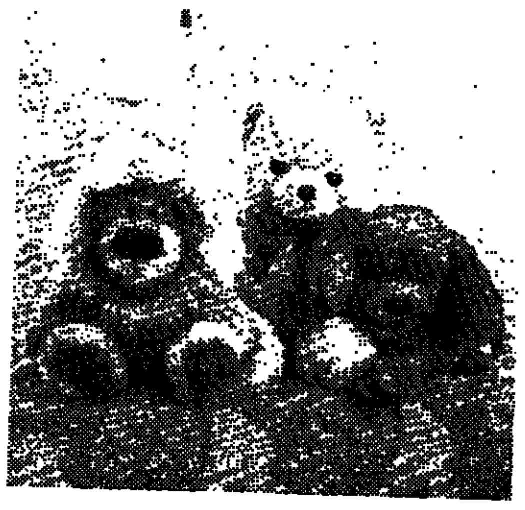
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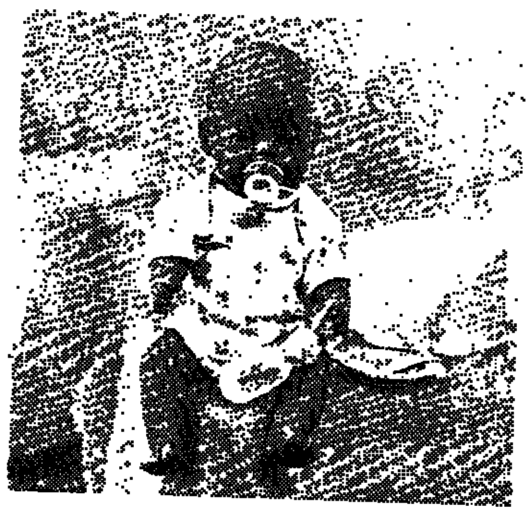
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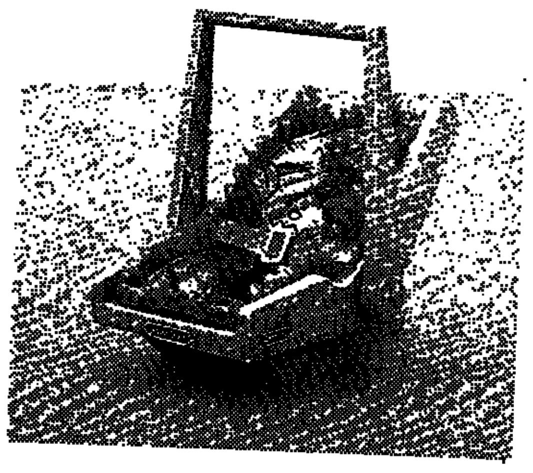
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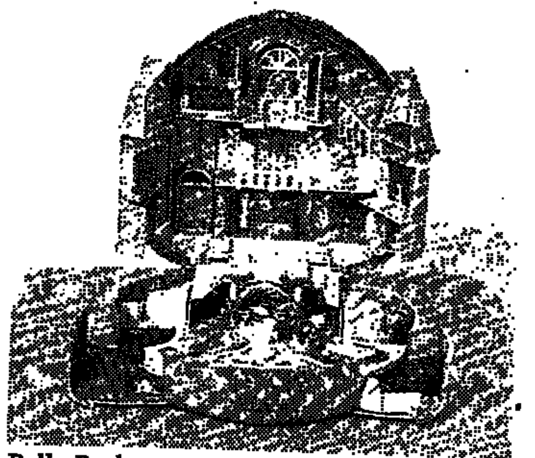
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Senators vote for Whitewater legal battle with Clinton

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Senate Whitewater Committee voted to take the White House to court last night after President Clinton's advisers failed to comply with a deadline for surrendering subpoenaed documents.

The full Senate is expected to endorse the committee's 10-8 vote before next weekend's Christmas break, meaning that Mr Clinton will have to seek re-election in 1996 while simultaneously fighting a legal battle to protect what the Republicans will inevitably portray as very damaging information.

Mike McCurry, the President's spokesman, angrily denied Mr Clinton had anything to hide and accused the Republicans of playing politics. He said the White House had refused to hand over the documents simply to protect the principle that "the President ... ought to have the right to have confidential discussions with a lawyer".

The most important of the documents are a presidential aide's notes on a meeting of Mr Clinton's lawyers and advisers in November 1993. The White House insists this was merely a briefing session for David Kendall, who had just been appointed Mr Clinton's personal lawyer.

Republicans believe the participants may have discussed ways to foil two supposedly independent investigations of Whitewater matters by using improperly acquired inside information — a clear obstruction of justice. Richard Shelby, a Republican committee member, compared Mr Clinton's refusal to surrender the documents to President Nixon's refusal to hand over the Watergate tapes in 1974 on grounds of executive privilege. "We all know that claim was bogus and they were hiding something then, as perhaps they are now."

The better news for Mr Clinton was that he last night became the first elected Democratic President in nearly 50 years to avoid a damaging primary challenge for the party's presidential nomination.

The deadline for registering in the all-important New Hampshire primary passed with no serious Democrat having dared to oppose him. This will give Mr Clinton a huge advantage as he seeks re-election, enabling him to remain above the fray and conserve his resources as a lacklustre group of nine Republicans fight each other for their party's nomination.

McCurry: Republicans are "playing politics"

A *New York Times* poll this week gave Mr Clinton a relatively healthy 51 per cent approval rating and a handsome 12-point lead over Robert Dole, the likely Republican nominee. It looks increasingly as if it will take a dramatic new revelation in the Whitewater saga, or a significant loss of American soldiers in Bosnia-Herzegovina, to prevent Mr Clinton's re-election.

☐ **Husband freed:** A federal judge yesterday lifted restrictions of movement on Joseph Waldholtz, the estranged husband of Enid Waldholtz, a Utah congresswoman, after he volunteered to keep in daily contact with the FBI.

Mr Waldholtz is under investigation for allegedly shifting $1.7 million (£1.1 million) between bank accounts while handling funds from his wife's 1994 congressional campaign. He later declined to comment on accusations by his wife, who is divorcing him, that he had duped her. Mrs Waldholtz faces political ruin over the scandal, but has said that she will not resign. *(Reuter)*

Lid lifted on White House sex

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

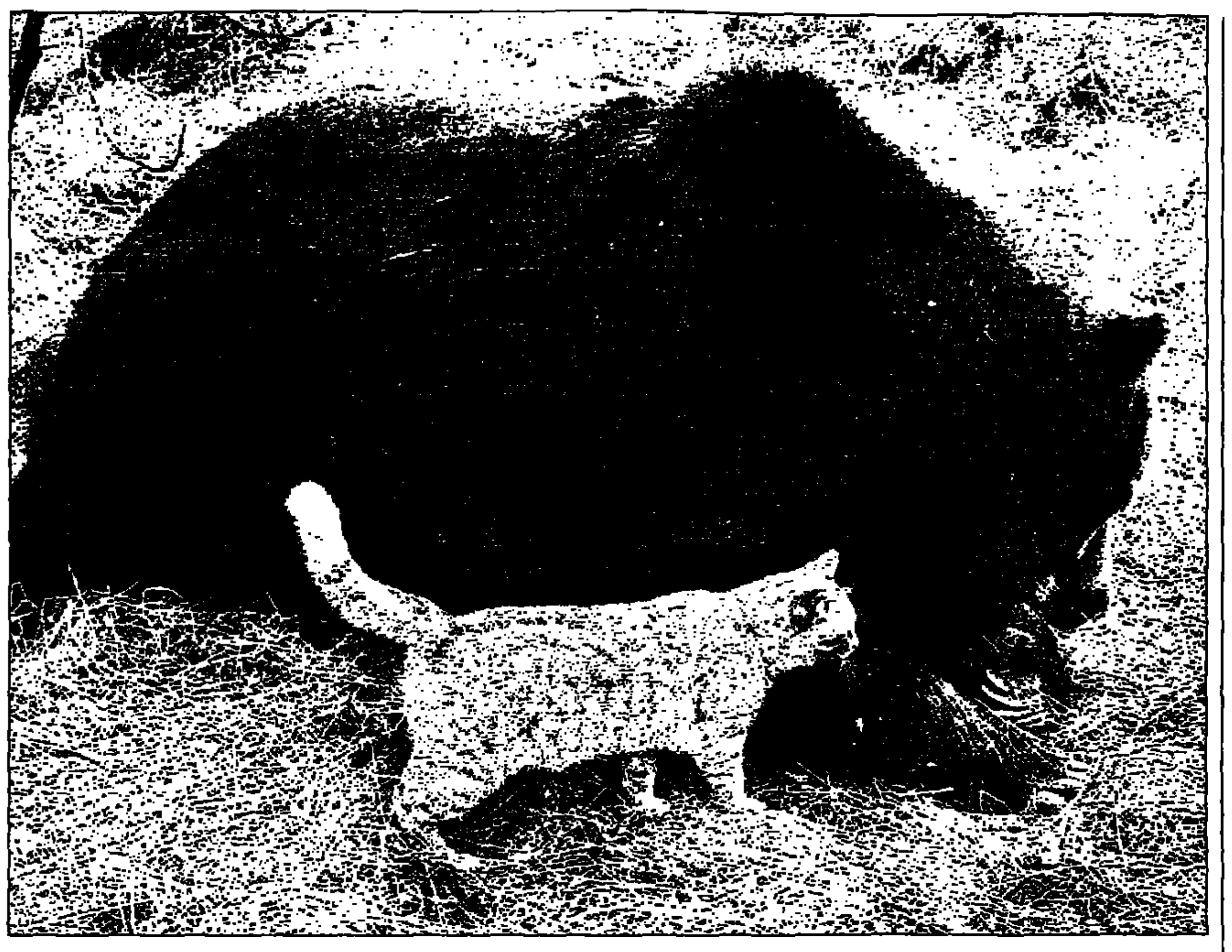
LYNDON B. JOHNSON liked to make love on his desk at the White House, while Warren Harding repeatedly enjoyed sex with a young hometown girl in the presidential closet as his wife attempted to break down the door.

George Washington was known as the Stallion of the Potomac, but his exploits faded in comparison to Thomas Jefferson or John F. Kennedy. The revelations emerge in *Presidential Sex* by Wesley Hagood, which deals with 12 presidents and will be published in America over Christmas.

The details of White House passion in the volume by Hagood, an author from Annapolis, Maryland, are being kept a close secret by the New York publishers but various insights have started to emerge of sexual antics in and outside the Oval Office.

Thomas Jefferson, for instance, whose prolonged affair with his slave, Sally Hemings, produced a number of children, is thought to have made a deal to sleep with Dolley Madison in exchange for endorsing her husband, James Madison.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's sexual adventures involved Lucy Rutherford and Missy LeHand, private secretaries to the First Lady and the President, as well as *New York Post* publisher Dorothy Schiff and Princess Martha of Norway.



A 560lb grizzly with his unlikely companion at a wildlife rehabilitation centre in Oregon. Staff at Wildlife Images, Grants Pass, were horrified last summer when a stray kitten squeezed through a hole in the bear's pen and approached the

Friends great and small

five-gallon food bucket (Giles Whittell writes). "I thought, 'Oh my gosh, it's going to kill it'," said David Siddon, the centre's founder. But instead the bear, known as Griz, reached into his bucket, picked out a piece of chicken and offered it to the ravenous kitten, which wolfed it down. The bear had been in a pen by himself since coming to Wildlife Images in 1990 from Montana, where his mother and sister were killed by a train. Griz and the kitten, named Cat by staff, are now inseparable, Mr Siddon said. "I've never seen anything like it."

Gascoigne in Italian tax inquiry

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALIAN fraud police are investigating a case of suspected tax evasion involving Paul Gascoigne, the footballer, during his time at the Italian club Lazio, police said yesterday.

The *Guardia di Finanza* has passed a report on the case to an investigating magistrate in Turin, who will decide whether to proceed with the inquiry. A *Guardia* source in Rome said the inquiry involved a Maltese firm, which allowed an Italian company to use Mr Gascoigne's image in marketing its products.

Sarajevo stays flashpoint as Serbs lower war alert

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Bosnian Serb leadership took the first tentative step yesterday towards standing down the 85,000-man Serb army. Radovan Karadzic, the Serb leader, officially ended the state of war throughout Serb-held territory in Bosnia.

He said this would free conscripts to help with reconstruction. He lowered the alert status for the army from "war" to "immediate war danger".

However, he excluded Sarajevo, underlining the growing fears that the Bosnian capital will be the first and most dangerous flashpoint for the 60,000-strong Nato-led force that is preparing to deploy rapidly to Bosnia.

The Serb areas of Sarajevo — Grbavica, Ilidza, Vogosca and Ilijas — are to be handed back to Bosnian government control under the Dayton agreement signed in Paris on Thursday, despite the opposition of local Serbs.

For Nato, the biggest initial challenge is the weather, with blizzards curtailing planned flights to Sarajevo and Tuzla carrying advance troops. Admiral Leighton Smith, the American commander of Operation Joint Endeavour, the Nato-led mission, admitted yesterday he had no idea when he would be able to move into his Sarajevo headquarters.

Nato ambassadors have given provisional approval for the bulk of alliance combat troops to begin moving into Bosnia, in the expectation that the United Nations will approve a mandate.

One remaining issue concerns the procedure under which Nato troops will hand over indicted war criminals who fall into their hands. This is to be outlined in a UN Security Council resolution.

Croatia appeared to be reneging on one element of the accord, under which it is to hand over a strip of land to the Dalmatian coast to the Serbs, in return for territory in the hinterland of Dubrovnik held by Serbs. President Tudjman said there was "not a single chance" that Croatia would hand over the land.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dini wins key votes on budget

Rome: Lamberto Dini, the Italian Prime Minister, yesterday narrowly won two confidence votes, called to break a logjam over next year's budget. His opponents were led by Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister, who is trying to force an early election.

Signor Dini called the vote to try to end a filibuster over a spending package. He faces another vote next week. *(AP)*

Jackson 'escape'

New York: Michael Jackson may have been within 15 minutes of dying when he collapsed 10 days ago, his doctor told a columnist here. Jackson fainted during a rehearsal. *(AP)*

Tourists attacked

Nairobi: Gunmen hijacked a tour bus after shooting out the windscreen, and robbed seven Danish tourists who were going to the Masai Mara game reserve, the local media reported. *(Reuter)*

Treason charge

Lima: Peruvian authorities formally charged Lori Helene Berenson, 26, an American woman, with treason for her alleged involvement with Marxist guerrillas plotting to storm Congress here. *(Reuter)*

Far-right hook

Prague: Miroslav Sladek, chairman of the Czech far-right Republican Party, has been given a 10-month suspended jail sentence for hitting a policeman during a fracas in Prague last October. *(Reuter)*

Korea reshuffle

Seoul: Lee Soo Sung, president of Seoul National University, has replaced Lee Hong Koo as South Korean Prime Minister in the first step of a Cabinet reshuffle by President Kim Young Sam. *(Reuter)*

Tree surgery

Stockton, California: A surgeon removed an inch-long fir sprig, still green, from the right lung of Tracy McIntyre, 16. It had lodged there undetected since a 1980 choking fit near a Christmas tree. *(AP)*

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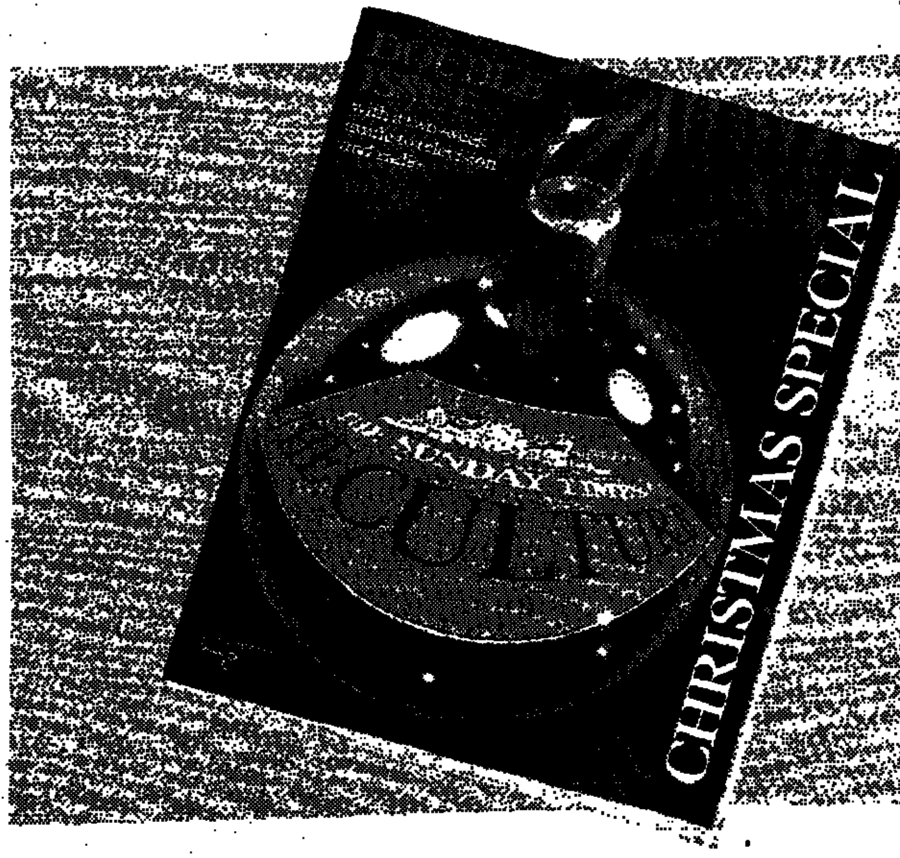

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Zhirinovsky's sex campaign

Slav Casanova woos voters

MOSCOW FILE
by RICHARD BEESTON

WATCHING Vladimir Zhirinovsky's antics during the election campaign a visitor to Russia might gain the impression that the overweight, ultra-nationalist leader is Russia's leading sex symbol. Although best remembered this year for throttling a female parliamentarian during a debate in the House, the brutish demagogue has nevertheless sought to cast himself as a Slav Casanova.

In his eccentric advertising campaign, a wide array of Russian women, including Natasha Volkonsky, Tolstoy's heroine in *War and Peace*, a sexy nightclub singer and a bored housewife, have stared out from Russian television screens promising to do anything "for him". His sexual fantasy appeared to be fulfilled in real life this week at a Moscow nightclub when he was greeted by a stripper wearing only a sequined G-string and brassière dancing to the words: "Spank me, I want a man who will spank me."

Inspired by the erotic spectacle, Mr Zhirinovsky went up on the stage and told the audience that going to vote was like having sex.

"The difference between my party and the others is like the difference between a prostitute and a virgin," he said. "All the others are like a prostitute who has rolled in the mud a thousand times. No matter what they do they cannot get their virginity back. Only my party is a virgin."

The tactic of using sexual innuendo does not appear to have worked, however. A recent poll showed that proportionally fewer women supported Mr Zhirinovsky than any other leading politician.

Aleksandr Rutskoi, the leader of the nationalist Derzhava (Great Power) party, meanwhile, certainly deserves credit for keeping in tune with the mood of the country, although his chances of getting back into power are slim. The former air force officer, who was shot down more than once in Afghanistan, is the country's undisputed political trendsetter, who switches his allegiances as effortlessly as a chameleon changes colour.

In 1991, he stood firmly with other democrats behind Boris Yeltsin during the siege of the White House. Two years later, after his appointment as Vice-President, he led the abortive October rebellion at the head of the most hardline Communists. Now that nationalism is the trend, Mr Rutskoi is among the most ardent patriots. In the space of a few years, he has also moved from being an atheist to a devout Orthodox Christian.

Brokers bet on Red romp

Most of Russia's new class of businessmen are dreading tomorrow's election results because of the expected victory of the Communists and hardline nationalist groups that have threatened to halt economic reform and crack down on successful entrepreneurs.

However, for some brokers and fund managers a Communist win is what they want. The traders have opened an informal elections futures market where investors are hoping to make a small fortune out of a Communist victory.

"We will probably predict this pretty well," said Brom Keifetz, a London-based investor credited with setting up the market. "People who like to move money will make markets in anything."

Vladimir Zhirinovsky: his eccentric campaign has lost him support

Frightened MPs 'take office home with them'

AFTER the recent spate of attacks against candidates running in tomorrow's parliamentary elections, it was not surprising to see security measures tightened at the Duma, the Lower House of the Russian parliament.

The office of a right-wing MP was destroyed in a bomb explosion. Three other candidates have been killed in the run-up to the polls — two were shot dead and a third died in mysterious circumstances in a car crash.

However, stunned deputies found that security guards appeared more interested in what they and their aides were taking out of the building than what potential terrorist devices might be smuggled in.

A discreet inquiry by a local newspaper revealed that guards have been ordered to intensify their searches after the sudden disappearance of coffee machines, computers and other office equipment.

Apparently the items have been spirited out of the newly refurbished building by parliamentarians who do not rate their chances of being voted back in the election, contested by 43 parties and an average of a dozen local candidates in every constituency.

Yeltsin pleads for rejection of past

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin last night made an impassioned plea to millions of Russian voters not to support the Communists in tomorrow's elections and risk dragging Russia back to its past.

Speaking in a television address to the nation from his country retreat, where he is recovering from a heart attack, the Russian leader urged the electorate to back his Government's reform policies and avoid another revolution.

"The most dangerous thing is that representatives of some parties want to return the country to the past," he said, in a clear reference to the Communists, who are expected to win the largest share of the votes. "I am sure it is a tragic mistake," Mr Yeltsin said, adding thattrying to re-create the Soviet Union could plunge Russia into conflict with its neighbours.

He urged voters to back those who offered "stability and accord in our common home — Russia", an unsubtle plug for Our Home Is Russia, the party of the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The Russian leader's appeal was clearly aimed at the large number of undecided voters, particularly among the young, whose last-minute decisions could determine the make-up of the 450-seat Duma, the lower house of parliament.

While 43 parties are running in the election, only a handful are expected to win the minimum 5 per cent necessary to land seats in the assembly. Certainly the centrist Our Home Is Russia and the liberal Yabloko party will easily pass the minimum required. But the Communists and their nationalist allies are likely to win as many as half of the seats and could dominate the legislature.

Although the assembly's powers are dwarfed by the Kremlin's authority under Russia's constitution, it is clear President Yeltsin fears a strong opposition showing could make a Communist candidate the front-runner in next year's presidential race.

Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, yesterday claimed victory even before the elections had begun. He boasted that his party was preparing new legislation with which to fight the Kremlin.

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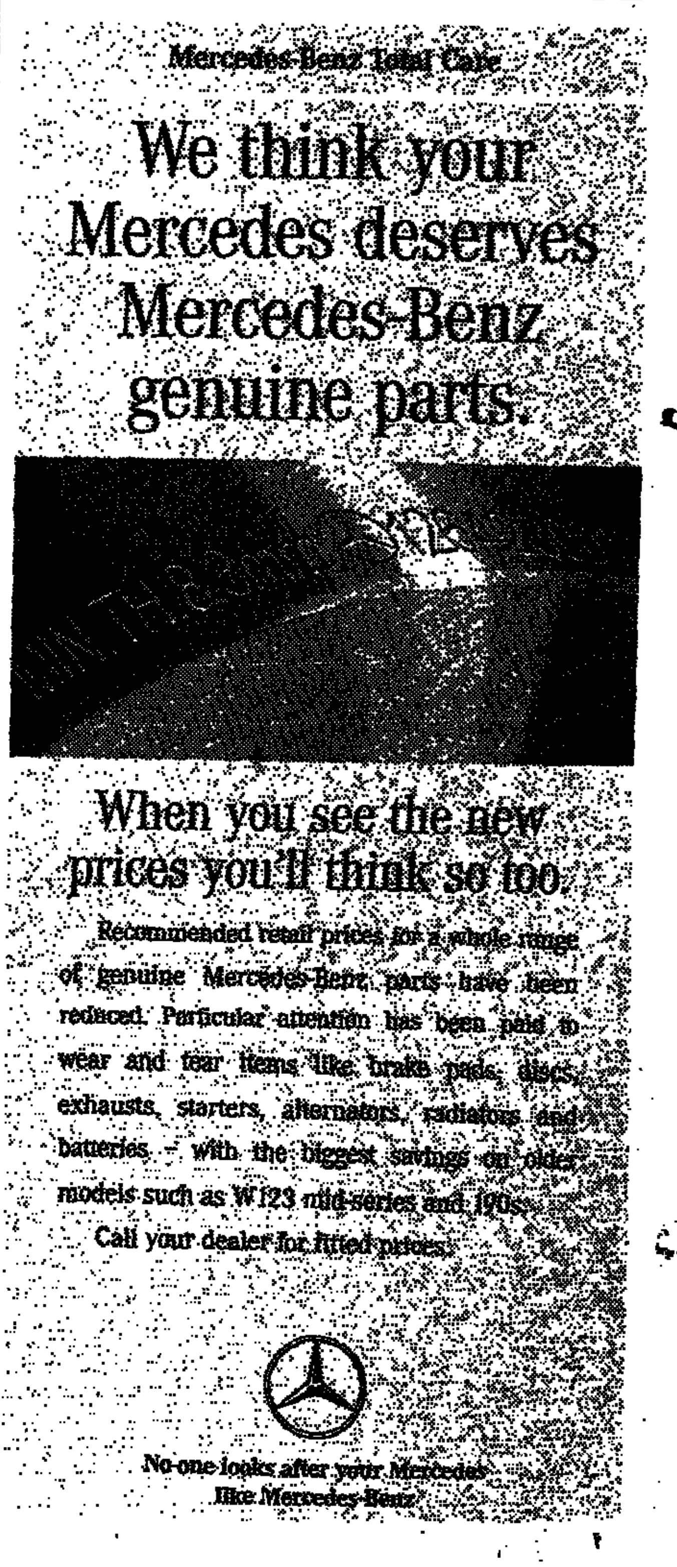
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■ OPINION

Fights in the Royal Phil: Daniele Gatti's orchestra puts survival before adventure

■ THEATRE

Does Stoppard's *Rosencrantz* earn its classic status on the basis of gentle intellectual banter?

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ MUSIC

Rattle conducts a fascinating Mahler, but cannot redeem his orchestra's latest premiere

■ RISING FAST

David Harrower is Scotland's bright new playwriting hope, after *Knives in Hens*

So you want to run an orchestra?

In an attempt to win next year's Humanitarian of the Year Award I am donating a few inches of a prime advertising site — namely, this column — to a message on behalf of the destitute musicians currently wandering the streets of our capital:

"WANTED — Managing director for one London orchestra. Actually, make that two, as of last Wednesday. Must be eternal optimist, used to working 60-hour weeks. Must have a miraculous plan to find 500 sessions of work each year for 75 players in the worst recession ever to hit classical music. Must have the devastating powers of persuasion necessary to talk top conductors and soloists into appearing in Britain for a fraction of their usual fees.

"Must have contacts in high places to stop the Arts Council from cutting the grant. Must have contacts in low places to head off rebellions from the players. Must have 5,000 rich friends, because the previous MD, in an expansive moment, booked the Albert Hall for a whole concert season. Which is one reason why he *is* previous.

"Salary? Don't worry. Whatever it is, you will be expected to take a large pay cut if the orchestra is 'resting' too much. Perks? You go to lots of concerts. Prospects? Get a good lawyer. And don't give up the minicabbing."

Christopher Lawrence, the London Philharmonic's erstwhile MD., was removed last May primarily because he had a terrible falling-out with the LPO's rich and well-connected trustees. Without their fundraising, the orchestra was doomed.

For Paul Findlay, who until last Wednesday was the Royal Philharmonic's managing director, the case was rather different. The RPO doesn't have any rich uncles to bail it out. It has traded on being willing and able to play anything, anywhere, anytime.

If booked to do a morning rehearsal in Nottingham, an evening concert in Madrid and a recording session in London at 10am the next day, that is what the players will do. Their resolve to survive is astonishing, and continually thwarts every Arts Council scheme to "tidy up" London's musical life by abolishing them.

Unfortunately, Findlay — a nice man who was shoddily treated by the Royal Opera before being shoddily treated by the RPO — was brought in to create quite a different orchestra: one that would play quality concerts at the Albert Hall, invest in "community work" in Nottingham, perform Maxwell Davies premieres, and generally do all the noble, serious things that the Arts Council demanded. Findlay set all this up, and more: an endorsement from Classic FM, a useful link with the Kirov Opera.

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

His reward? The RPO's subsidy was pegged to a miserable £300,000 a year. The Arts Council sealed Findlay's fate. Without subsidy, his plans were stillborn. But the charming way in which the RPO dumped him this week — an hour's notice, and the locks changed on his office door that very afternoon — was harsh even by the standards of the "self-governing" London orchestras.

Perhaps there is a darker explanation for his treatment. Exactly a year ago, Findlay openly wooed the brilliant young Italian conductor Daniele Gatti to be the Royal Philharmonic's music director. Fine; Gatti is a hot property. Unfortunately, the orchestra already had a music director, Vladimir Ashkenazy. When he heard that the RPO was going behind his back to find a successor, he was not overwhelmed with joy. He had a point. The ensuing row was loud and nasty, like a Shostakovich scherzo without the jokes.

Well, the music business is a tightly-knit world of deal-makers. An orchestra with almost no public subsidy needs powerful friends — and these usually come in a package deal when you hire your principal conductor. The Philharmonia, for instance, tolerated Giuseppe Sinopoli's bizarre interpretations for years because the conductor had Deutsche Grammophon backing him.

So when the RPO made enemies of Ashkenazy and his influential agent, Jasper Parrott, it lost the goodwill of a network of allies. Suddenly, important doors were shut in the RPO's face. That angered the players. What happened this week was their revenge on Findlay. Not pretty. Not artistic. But probably necessary. The RPO may still have to do an office-sharing deal with the equally beleaguered LPO to cut overheads. But it will survive.

What sort of orchestral world are we nurturing, though? A jungle, it seems. True, the London Symphony Orchestra is comparatively tranquil at the Barbican, though its backstage manoeuvre last year to oust Baroness O'Cathain from the Barbican management shows that it, too, can be ruthless.

But the other London orchestras must now battle for survival not only with each other but with the plushly subsidised orchestras of an increasingly mercenary BBC, as well as innumerable ensembles from Eastern Europe that can undercut British bands at every turn. No wonder that, when I last visited a London orchestra's premises, I noticed a familiar poster had been altered. It now reads: "You do have to be mad to work here, but it doesn't help".

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

DAVID HARROWER

Profession: Playwright. A new addition to Scotland's swelling horde of startling young dramatists.

Age: 29

Current work: Harrower's first professionally staged play, *Knives in Hens*, has transferred from Edinburgh's Traverse to the Bush. Directed by Philip Howard with acute starkness, this tersely poetic chamber piece set in a dour 16th-century rural community has met with excited acclaim.

Where has Harrower sprung from? The son of a barman, Harrower returned to Edinburgh after reading English and American Studies — though no drama — at what is now Derby University. Ever since then he has been scraping a living, writing on the side, while washing dishes in restaurants, "a cheap way to get fed". He hit upon drama in the local library: "Hare, Churchill, and Bond really inspired me."

Bottom-drawer drama: *Knives in Hens* in fact grew out of a laboriously researched drama about Scottish land-ownership, "a wordy, worthy, raised-voice play, safely nestled in a bottom drawer," says Harrower drily.

Forthcoming: He is now writing a modern-day drama for the Traverse called *Kill the Old, Torture their Young*, about the media and how individuals are understood through other's eyes. The Royal Court has also commissioned a play for next year.

Other new ground: He is planning an experimental piece for Glasgow's Tramway too, to be collaboratively created "as an attempt to smash the protective perfectionist technique I've built round myself".

KATE BASSETT

Danish ham

THEATRE

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead
Lyttelton

This was the play with which the National Theatre, then ensconced at the Old Vic, launched Tom Stoppard's career back in 1967. Much has come from his coruscating pen since — the dazzle of *Jumpers*, the sparkle of *Travesties*, the sheer excellence of *Arcadia* — yet *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* remains his best-known, most performed piece. But its reappearance in the National's repertoire obliges us to answer an unspoken question. Does it really merit the classic status that nearly 30 years of upmarket exposure have conferred on it?

Much to my surprise, Matthew Francis's production disappointed me. The evening seemed, well, awfully long. As two hours became three-plus, and the gentle intellectual banter went on and on, I began heretically to wonder if there was not a little substance in the devastating attack long ago delivered by the American critic, Robert Brustein. He thought the play a bantamweight rip-off of *Waiting for Godot*. Its pessimism was unfelt, its philosophic pretensions spurious, its tone cute, its main characters "whimsical to the point of nausea".

Whatever the play's limitations, either on page or stage, nobody could dispute the strength of the idea behind it. What happens to Shakespeare's two attendant lords when they are not ineptly sleuthing out Hamlet's secrets, or tracking Polonius's body, or leaving for England with a death-warrant for the prince? Stoppard's answer is that their words turn from Elizabethan verse to colloquial English, and they spend the time between big public events loitering like Beckett's tramps, amusing themselves with word-games and philosophical fun, and trying to make sense of the terrifying tragedy into which they have been inexplicably plunged.

Whose fault is it that the clever repartee palls at the National and the play's sombre implications are never fully felt? Not that of Adrian Scarborough's Rosencrantz or Simon Russell Beale's Guildenstern. They distinguish between the characters very clearly, and not just because one looks like a peeled prawn and the other a podgy koala bear. Beale unpretentiously exudes curiosity and mental energy, and Scarborough catches Rosencrantz's passivity and panicky wimpishness. They bubble away from inside their yellowy doublets and still fail to give the play the fizz or weight it needs.

Perhaps that's because Francis's direction and Lez Brotherston's decor do little to create the right atmosphere. The set is a bare cream pavilion through whose dark panes you variously spy wintry trees, bunched pikes and smoky clouds; but it does not suggest a sinister, dangerous Elsinore or, for that matter, a dark, cruel world. The players, flamboyantly led by Alan Howard dressed as a buccaneer, persistently outlive their welcome. Why so elaborate a dress rehearsal (Spanish, African and even Japanese influences, forsooth!) for *The Mousetrap*, and why so joky a fight with the pirates they encounter en route to England? Paul Rattigan's Hamlet has his menacing moments, but not enough to counteract the blandness.

Stoppard wishes to suggest that Ros and Guild, like you and me, are trapped in a cosmic machine with an unknown master, an incomprehensible purpose and an irresistible momentum: "We move idly towards eternity without possibility of reprieve or hope of explanation." Is that a lament from the heart of suffering humanity or the sort of jejeune stuff first-year students exchange over their bedtime cocoa? On the evidence here, I fear the latter.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER

Waiting for the next big event: Adrian Scarborough (left) and Simon Russell Beale

Lost in the woods

CONCERT

CBSO/Rattle
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

NOBODY familiar with Judith Weir's earlier music would easily recognise the composer of *Forest*, where neither the tree nor the wood is clearly defined. Indeed, as the poetic associations of the forest merge with a concern for its organic growth, romantic echoes on horns and trumpets of *Midsummer Marriage* and *King Priam* conceal even more of the Weir personality.

The composer has suggested that *Forest* could be the first movement of a much longer work. But perhaps it first needs to be clarified, with extraneous material cut away and with more light let in.

Sir Simon Rattle conducted the first performance of *Forest* between a not very atmospheric account of Vaughan Williams's *Tallis Fantasia* and a fascinating presentation of Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*. We are used to John Mitchinson, who once again demonstrated both his mastery and his durability in the tenor songs. We are not used to Thomas Hampson, or any baritone, in the other solo role. If Hampson did not succeed in convincing the audience that his kind of voice is appropriate in all the songs traditionally associated with an alto, he did make us think about it. But in the more delicate sections of *Von der Schönheit*, he sounded heavy, even clumsy. *Abschied*, on the other hand, lends itself naturally to manly sounds. Perhaps the answer is not two but three solo voices.

GERALD LARNER

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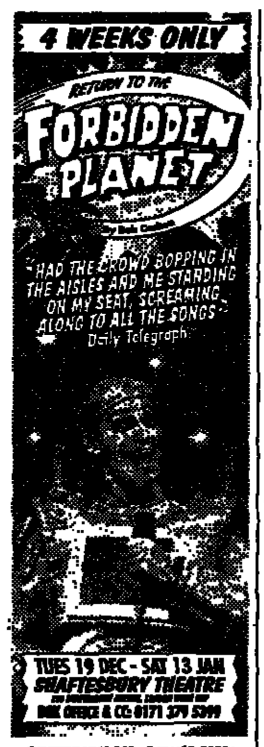

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Mon, Wed 7.30 TWYLA THARP ROSSINI BALLET
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Friday 12.00 (First Performance) PETER AND THE WOLF/TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER

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CLASSICAL CONCERTS

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The Glory of CHRISTMAS

Glorious seasonal music including: BACH Opening choruses of Magnificat & Christmas Oratorio; Air on a G String HANDEL Worthy is the Lamb; For unto us a child is born GOUNOD Ave Maria STANLEY Trumpet Voluntary ADAMS The Holy City; O Holy Night and CAROLS FOR ALL

London Concert Orchestra, Philip Simms conductor Thomas Tallis Choir

Sun 17th - John Graham Hall tenor William Houghton trumpet Finchley Children's Music Group

Sat 23rd - Andrew Murgatroyd tenor Crispian Steele-Perkins trumpet Capital Arts Children's Choir

£8.50 - £22.50 Raymond Gubbay Ltd in assoc. with the Daily Telegraph

Sun 17, Tues 19 & Wed 20 Dec 7.30pm

LSO Christmas Celebration

London Symphony Orchestra Richard Hickox cond. Thomas Allen baritone London Symphony Chorus Prog inc. Humperdinck The Dream Pantomime from Hansel and Gretel Tchaikovsky Nutcracker Suite, I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas and carols for all £8 - £22

Mon 18 Dec 7.30pm

English Chamber Orchestra

The Choir of Westminster Abbey Martin Neary conductor Simon Birchall baritone Andrew Crowley trumpet Purcell Trumpet Sonata in D Britten Ceremony of Carols Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols, Carols for choir, orchestra & audience £5, £11, £16, £18.50 Sponsored by Bristol & West Building Society

Sat 23 Dec 3.00pm

THE MAD HATTER'S Christmas Concert

Join the Mad Hatter for this pre-Christmas fun concert with lots of jolly music and surprises. Join Santa Claus, Alice and her friends from Wonderland and sing and clap along to Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Sleigh Ride, Nellie the Elephant and many other favourites for all the family.

London Concert Orchestra, Fraser Goulding conductor

All tickets £9.50 Raymond Gubbay Ltd in assoc. with The Daily Telegraph

Sun 31 Dec & Mon 1 & Tues 2 Jan 7.30pm

LSO New Year Viennese Evening

London Symphony Orchestra John Georgiadis conductor Popular Viennese music from the Strauss family including Pizzicato Polka, Annen Polka, Explosions Polka, Gnomes Polka, Blue Danube Waltz, Champagne Polka, Jubilee Waltz, Radetsky March, 'Die Fledermaus' Overture £8 - £22

Mon 1 Jan 3.00pm

New Year's Day Family Matinee

London Symphony Orchestra John Georgiadis conductor Popular Viennese music from the Strauss family including William Tell Gallop, Radetsky March, Snowballs Waltz, Gnomes Polka and musical fun for all the family £8 - £15

Thu 4 - Sat 6 Jan

NEW YEAR SEASON

Travelling OPERA

CARMEN
BIZET
Thursday 4 & Friday 5 January 7.30 pm
"Full blooded, passionate... and utterly compelling" Daily Telegraph

COSI FAN TUTTE
MOZART
Saturday 6 January 7.30 pm
"A witty and delightful show" The Times

Call the Box Office for a free leaflet
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The Daily Telegraph
Christmas Festival 1995

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SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER at 7.30pm
HANDEL'S MESSIAH

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER at 2.00 & 5.00pm
the Bach Choir FAMILY CAROLS

MONDAY 18 DECEMBER at 7.30pm
CHRISTMAS GALA with the PHILHARMONIA

Two great choirs, the PHILHARMONIA CHORUS and the CHOIR of WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL join together for a thrilling evening of choral masterpieces and traditional Christmas music in the majestic splendour of the Royal Albert Hall
Handel Zadok The Priest, Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols
Albinoni Adagio, Darke In the Bleak Midwinter
Handel Christmas Sequence from the Messiah, Tchaikovsky The Nutcracker, Overture, with Carols and Christmas songs for Choir and audience
Philharmonia Orchestra David Hill conductor Stephen Varcoe baritone
Philharmonia Chorus Choir of Winchester Cathedral
£25.50 £23.50 £21.50 £16.50 £11.50 £7.50

TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER at 7.30pm
ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT
sponsored by VIRGIN HOLIDAYS

WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER at 7.30pm
THE BT CHRISTMAS CONCERT

THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER at 7.30pm
CHRISTMAS OPERA GALA

Amanda Thane soprano Claire Powell mezzo soprano
Bonaventura Bottone tenor William Dazeley baritone
London Choral Society Fanfare Trumpeters of the Band of the Welsh Guards
BBC Concert Orchestra James Lockhart conductor
A special pre-Christmas Opera Gala featuring four distinguished soloists in a programme of popular excerpts, many with a seasonal theme, from the great operas, including:
Overture to Hansel and Gretel, Soldiers Chorus from Faust, Habanera from Carmen, Duet from the Pearlfishers, Brindisi from La Traviata, Anvil Chorus from Il Trovatore, Quartet from Rigoletto, Grand March from Aida, Largo al factotum from The Barber of Seville, Polonaise from Christmas Eve, Christmas Eve Love Duet from La Boheme, Un Bel Di from Madam Butterfly, Nessun Dorma from Turandot and The Party Scene from Die Fledermaus with Special Surprises
£25.50 £23.50 £21.50 £16.50 £11.50 £7.50

FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER at 7.30pm
MELODY FM CHRISTMAS CONCERT

David Hamilton introduces a programme of Christmas Favourites for all the family in the 1995 Melody FM Christmas Concert programme includes, Leroy Anderson's Christmas Festival and Sleigh Ride, Walking in the Air, Winter Wonderland Medley, Parade of the Tin Soldiers, Imagine, I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas, Have Yourselves a Merry Little Christmas, Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire, I Believe in Father Christmas, Jingle Bells, Tchaikovsky Christmas Medley, Pie Jesu from Requiem, Theme from The Slipper and the Rose, and a Selection of Carols
£22.50 £20.00 £17.50 £13.50 £9.50 £7.50

SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER at 3.00pm
CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGALONG

SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER at 7.30pm
HANDEL'S MESSIAH

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER at 7.00pm
THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents at the
BARBICAN HALL
Box Office/CC 0171-638 8891
Part of The Daily Telegraph Christmas Festival 1995

SUNDAY 7 JANUARY 1996 at 7.30 pm

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

ROSSINI Barber of Seville Overture
HANDEL Music for the Royal Fireworks
TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No.1
BEETHOVEN Symphony No.3 (Eroica)
BRIAN WRIGHT conductor
PAUL LEWIS piano
£9.50, £14.50, £19.50, £22.50, £25.50

Victor Hochhauser *presents at the* BARBICAN CENTRE
Thursday Next 21 December 7.30

BACH MAGNIFICAT

English Chamber Orchestra Tallis Chamber Choir
PHILIP LEDGER - *Conductor/Harpsichord*
Brandenburg Concerto No 1
Stephanie Gonley - *Violin*
Brandenburg Concerto No 2
Stephanie Gonley - *Violin* William Bennett - *Flute*
John Anderson - *Oboe* Andrew Crowley - *Trumpet*
Magnificat
Patricia MacMahon - *Soprano* Colette Ruddy - *Soprano*
Aileen Sim - *Contralto* Douglas Telfer - *Tenor*
Robin Greenway - *Bass*
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RAYMOND GUBBAY presents
The Daily Telegraph
Christmas Festival 1995

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TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER at 7.30pm
BOXING DAY CONCERT

Philharmonia Orchestra
Anthony Inglis conductor Mark Bebbington piano
The traditional Boxing Day concert with the Philharmonia Orchestra.
Mendelssohn The Hebrides Overture Fingal's Cave
Mozart Eine kleine Nachtmusik Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No 2
Dvorak Symphony No 9 New World
£25.50 £22.50 £19.50 £14.50 £9.50

THURSDAY 28 DECEMBER at 3.00pm & FRIDAY 29 DECEMBER at 7.30pm
DIE FLEDERMAUS

Denis Quilley as Narrator & Frosch
Robert Tear Eisenstein Amanda Thane Rosalinde
Judith Howarth Adele Bonaventura Bottone Alfred
Claire Powell Prince Orlofsky William Dazeley Dr Falke
Nicholas Folwell Col. Frank Susanna Tudor-Thomas Ida
BBC Concert Orchestra London Concert Chorus
James Lockhart conductor
The Strauss Dancers in Costume Mary Anne Kraus choreographer
In these two special concert performances, sung in English, the party scene in the second act will be augmented in the traditional manner with some of Johann Strauss's most popular dances performed in period costume by the Strauss Dancers.
£29.50 £26.50 £22.50 £15.50 £12.50
(Children under 16-Half Price on Thurs 28 Dec matinee only)

THURSDAY 28 DECEMBER at 7.30pm
MOZART IN COSTUME

The acclaimed Mozart Festival Orchestra, performing in authentic 18th century costumes, returns with a programme of Mozart favourites to bring an elegant touch of seasonal cheer.
Marriage of Figaro Overture, Eine kleine Nachtmusik
Piano Concerto No 21, Horn Concerto No 4, Symphony No 40
Mozart Festival Orchestra
Ian Watson conductor Jeffrey Bryant horn
£25.50 £22.50 £19.50 £14.50 £9.50

FRIDAY 29 DECEMBER at 3.00pm
BALLET GALA

Royal Ballet Sinfonia
Peter Ernst Lassen conductor
Stars of the Birmingham Royal Ballet in a special programme of music and dance from the magical world of the great ballets
Eugene Onegin-Polonaise, Birthday Offering Waltz &Pas de Deux*
Walk to the Paradise Garden, Don Quixote-Pas de Deux*
Rodeo-Hoe Down, Swan Lake-Opening Scene, Neapolitan Dance
White Swan Pas de Deux* & Cygnets
Hobson's Choice-Clog Dance* & Lily of Laguna*, Spartacus-Adagio
Coppelia-Prelude & Magic Scene*, La fille mal gardee-Clog Dance*
Masquerade Suite-Mazurka, Pavane Eugene Onegin-Waltz
The Nutcracker-Grand Pas de Deux*
*these items will be danced
£22.50 £19.50 £16.50 £13.50 £9.50 Children under 16 Half Price

SATURDAY 30 DECEMBER at 7.30pm
CLASSICAL GALA NIGHT

A sparkling, tuneful start to the New Year celebrations with this musical feast of Classic . . . after Classic . .
£25.50 £22.50 £19.50 £14.50 £9.50

BBC Symphony Orchestra

Sunday 17 December
Royal Albert Hall, 8pm

Beethoven
Missa Solemnis

BBC Symphony Orchestra
Roger Norrington conductor
Amanda Halgrimson soprano
Sarah Walker mezzo-soprano
Hans Peter Blochwitz tenor
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BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA
Conductor JAMES LOCKHART Directed by MICHAEL HUNT Set Design ALISON NALDER Costume Design JOHN BRIGHT Movement Director MARY ANNE KRAUS Lighting Design ANDREW BRIDGE

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Royal Festival Hall on the South Bank

Royal Festival Hall RFH 1 Tel 0171 960 4242 10am - 9pm

Sat 16 Dec 3.00 7.30 **Hospitals' Christmas Carol Concerts** Massed Choirs of the London Hospitals. S Barlow (cond) Major D F Wall (dir) Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Corps of Signals. A programme of Christmas music. £16 - £5

Dec 18 - Jan 6 2.30 7.30 **The Nutcracker** English National Ballet. Ben Stevenson's production is a glorious celebration of childhood Christmas. Eves: 7.30pm, except Mon 18 Dec 8.00pm; Mat: 2.30pm Dec 21-23, Dec 28-30, Jan 2, 6. £35 - £8

Queen Elizabeth Hall RFH 2 Tel 0171 960 4242 10am - 9pm

Sat 16 Dec 7.45 **Richard Goode Complete Beethoven Piano Sonatas** - Series 3. Beethoven: Piano Sonata in A, Op.2 No.2; Piano Sonata in C, Op.53 (Waldstein); Piano Sonata in F sharp, Op.78; Piano Sonata in C minor, Op.111. £17.50 - £6

Sun 17 Dec 3.00 **BT National Children's Orchestra** Vivienne Price (cond) Works by Britten, Malcolm Arnold, Rimsky-Korsakov, Liadov, Tchaikovsky. £8.50, £6.50, £5

Sun 17 Dec 7.45 **BT National Children's Orchestra** H Williams (cond) Bernstein: Overture, Candide; Saint-Saëns: Bacchanale; Elgar: The Wand of Youth, Suite No.2; Sibelius: Karelia Suite; Barber: Adagio; Tchaikovsky: 1812 Overture £10 - £5

Mon 18 Dec 7.45 **Tippett Celebration** Stoneleigh Youth Orchestra A Brown (cond) N Unwin (piano) Tippett: The Shires Suite (London prem of instrumental version); Piano Concerto; Dvořák: Symphony No.9 (From the New World) £7.50, £5

Tue 19 Dec 7.00 **Family Classics for Christmas** Ross Pople (cond) Prunella Scales (narr) London Festival Orchestra. Works by Telemann, E Roxburgh, Werner, Haydn. £20, £15, £10 (Children, all areas)

Wed 20 Dec 7.45 **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** SBC Associate Orchestra. P Jarvi (cond) T Zehetmair (vln) Berwald: Sinfonie Singulière (Sym No.3); Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto; Schumann: Symphony No.2. £18.50 - £8

Thu 21 Dec 7.45 **Carols for Choir and Audience** H Davan Wetton (cond) J Watts (org) City of London Choir. A collection of Christmas music and popular carols with opportunities for audience participation. £15 - £9

26, 28, 30 Dec 1, 2 Jan 6.30 **Hansel and Gretel** Palace Opera J Finney (conductor) Englebert Humperdinck's operatic interpretation of Grimms' classic fairytale. A wonderfully accessible opera, very suitable for children. £19.50 - £9.50

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WIGMORE HALL

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Sat 16 Dec 7.30pm	WIGMORE CHRISTMAS CONCERT Westminster Cathedral Choristers; Sioned Kangas; Academy Harp Ensemble; Theresa Santiago sop; M. Martineau, Stephen Hough pno; Gabriel Woolf. Britten: Ceremony of Carols; Xmas carols & readings; Music by Tchaikovsky, Kreisler, Puccini, Obradors etc £18, £14, £12, £8
Sun 17 Dec 11.30am NB: time	DUO TAL & GROETHUYSEN piano duo Coffee Concert Mozart: Andante and Variations in G K501 Schumann/Brahms: Piano Quartet in E flat Op.47 Bizet: Jeux d'enfants £7 incl. prog. & coffee/sherry/juice Wigmore Hall/Gerhild Baron
Sun 17 Dec 4.00pm NB: time	RIVKA GOLANI viola; JOHN LENEHAN piano Britten: Lachrymae Op.48; Bliss: Viola Sonata Op 52; Rachmaninov: Sonata Op.19 *(arrangement of Cello Sonata in G minor)* £15.00, £12.50, £10.00, £7.50 Management: Lisa Peacock
Mon 18 Dec 7.30pm	JOHN WILLIAMS, CARLOS BONELL guitars & FRIENDS Guitar solos, duets and ensembles In aid of WAR CHILD £18, £15 (all others sold) Promoter: Wayne de Nicolo
Tues 19 Dec 8.00pm NB: time	BARBARA BONNEY soprano; JULIUS DRAKE piano BRITTEN SONGS: Fish in the unruffled lakes; On this island Op. 11; Haydn: 4 Songs; Mendelssohn: 5 Lieder; Wolf: 8 Lieder from the *Italienisches Liederbuch* ALL SEATS SOLD (returns only) *6pm: Gabriel Woolf reads Auden £2* Eve. Spon: PRICOA
Wed 20 Dec 6.00pm NB: time	THE SIXTEEN Harry Christophers director Rush-Hour Concert Robin Jeffrey lute. Christmas Prog. including The Salutation Carol, Sweet was the song, The Old Year now has passed away; A Shepherd's Carol, The Holly and the Ivy; music by Britten, Poulenc etc All seats £7 Wigmore Hall/BBC Radio 3
Wed 20 Dec 8.00pm NB: time	JULIA CLOAD piano Haydn: Sonatas: No.50 in D HXVI:37; No.55 in B flat HXVI:41; No. 54 in G HXVI:40; Bach: Goldberg Variations BWV988 £12, £10, £8, £6-incl. free Julia Cload CD/cassette at the concert Sponsors: Meridian Records Management: Michael Webber
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■ VISUAL ART

Images of the Magi throughout history go on show to open Buckinghamshire's new gallery

■ BASE NOTE

"I will stage a previously unknown play by Tennessee Williams," says Vanessa Redgrave

THE TIMES ARTS

■ BASE NOTE

A pair of Greta Garbo's knickers is expected to sell for $10,000 on Monday

■ BASE NOTE

They've written musicals about everybody else: now it's Gerry (Pacemakers) Marsden's turn

Star turn in Aylesbury

A new art gallery opens its doors with a fascinating show that asks: 'Exactly who were the Three Kings?'

It is seldom that we have the opportunity to celebrate the advent of a brand-new, honest-to-goodness museum. But that in effect is just what Buckinghamshire County Museum is. During the six years that it has been closed, the bulding it occupies, part Tudor, part 18th-century, has been reconditioned and rethought. It now boasts, in addition to the local museum facilities, an extensive new gallery space upstairs, and next year the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery will be completed as well.

Tribute: 16th-century fragment of the Delft *Adoration of the Magi*

The new Buckinghamshire Art Gallery opens with a major loan exhibition which draws its material from museums, galleries and private collections all over Britain. Entitled *We Three Kings*, it concerns the image of the Magi in art.

It is no thrown-together seasonal offering: while much of the art it includes is enchanting, it also serves a serious, even scholarly purpose by entering into the whole question of who and what the Magi of New Testament story were, and how perceptions of them have shifted in the past two millennia.

To begin with, the account of them in St Matthew's Gospel is sketchy in the extreme. Wise men in some sense they clearly were, but what sort of wise man? They might be wandering scholars. They might be astrologers, as the fact of their being led to their destination by a star would suggest.

Maybe they were Zoroastrian priests or Medes skilled in the interpretation of dreams. What they are definitely not said to be are kings. Nor does there seem to be much there to capture the imagination of artists for 2,000 years. Yet by AD 200, the legendary outline is taking on more detail. Tertullian understands them to be kings come to pay tribute to the Christ child. Soon afterwards they start to be named, and their dominions localised, though they do not become Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar until the 6th century.

The earliest piece in the show, an ivory plaque including a Nativity and an Adoration, probably from Syria, dates from about this time. Interestingly, the Magi are not clearly identified as kings in the art works here until the 12th century, by which time their royalty is clear in an Italian plaque and a Flemish miniature.

From then on the image is more or less fixed: for medieval and Renaissance carvers, the picture of wordly powers paying tribute to the divine is the central matter of the Adoration scenes. Within that, there is diversity enough. What is also astonishing is the universality of the theme. From the 15th-century Westphalian master of Lieshorn to the 17th-century Ethiopean illuminator, everyone is decided on the centrality of the subject, and the show includes splended painted variations on it by such as Pieter Breughel the Younger, Pieter Coeck van Aelst, and Carlo Dolci, as well as latecomers Tiepolo and Boucher. Even Rembrandt figures with a wonderfully dark and mysterious etching.

Not all of the later comments on the subject are entirely reverential, however. William Elmes, the political caricaturist, weighs in with a satirical version which applies to the birth of Napoleon's son, the King of Rome. Some of the 20th-century versions hardly transcend the chocolate box, though David Jones and Craigie Aitchison prove honourable exceptions. But throughout this is a show which forces visitors not only to wallow, but also to participate and think for themselves. A distinguished beginning for what should be an invaluable new regional art space.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

● *Buckinghamshire County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury (01296 331441). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, until January 21*

Follow that star: *The Journey of the Magi*, 1995, watercolour by Mary Fedden. The identification of the Magi as kings did not occur until the 2nd century

Ticket for new Tennessee

THE indefatigable **Vanessa Redgrave** has discovered a "previously unknown play" by **Tennessee Williams**. She will be making an announcement next month, she says, but has plans to stage it for the first time on a British tour in 1996.

Meanwhile, she and brother **Corin** have set up a creative partnership between their own Moving Theatre company and the top American repertory company, the Alley Theatre of Houston. First fruits of the relationship will be two Shakespeare productions in Houston next month. Vanessa will star in and direct *Antony and Cleopatra*: Corin will do likewise for *Julius Caesar*. Both stagings are expected to come to Britain.

☐ SO WE have come to this? On Monday, Christie's in New York is to sell **Greta Garbo's** knickers. They are described with proper dignity. "A pair of silk, cream-coloured ladies *(sic)* briefs; on the left panel, the fancy monogrammed G. The satin lined briefs are designed with a four button front closure panel, open-eye stitching on both leg hems."

In fact they are a souvenir of what Christie's delicately call "a night of romance" between Garbo and the Mexican star **Gilbert Roland**. Roland died last year at the age of 89 and the panties figure in the sale of his estate.

In 1943, Roland, on leave from the air force, was walking in Beverly Hills when he passed Garbo, in trench coat and large hat. "I desired her in silence," he recalled in an unpublished biography. Roland persuaded Garbo's friend Salka Viertel to pass on the message that he would like to meet her if only for a moment.

The moment turned into the night of romance. When they parted, Roland gave Garbo the gold ring he was wearing and was given the actress's silk panties in exchange. The auctioneers expect them to realise a price of between $10,000 and $15,000.

☐ THOUGH without a recent British hit, **Phil Collins** has leapt to the top of an annual survey of the disclosed earnings of British pop stars. *Rock Accounts* puts his income for the year ending December 1994 at more than £24 million — double that of his closest rival, last year's victor **Elton John**. **Eric Clapton** and **Sting** follow behind, with Annie Lennox the highest-ranking female at No 5.

BASE NOTES

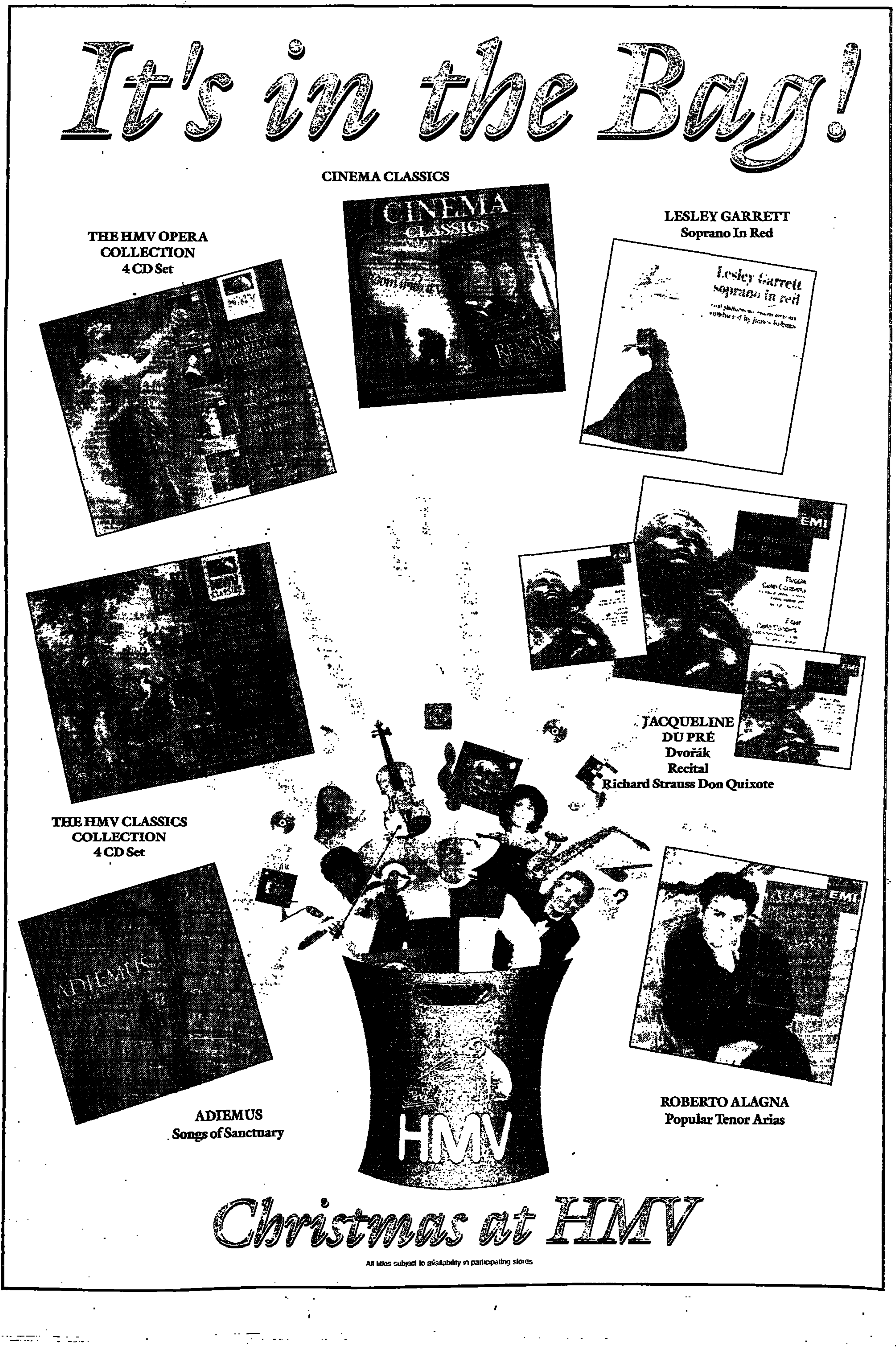
☐ JURY duty beckons for **Timothy West** and **Kevin Whately**. The pair head the cast for **Harold Pinter**'s production of *Twelve Angry Men*, with Whately, of *Peak Practice* and *Inspector Morse* fame, as the doubting murder trial juror played on the big screen by Henry Fonda. Reginald Rose's celebrated play opens at the Bristol Old Vic in March before an April transfer to the Comedy Theatre.

☐ WORK by 27 choreographers, including **Siobhan Davies** and **Mark Baldwin**, will feature in a 48-hour contemporary dance marathon at the Royal Festival Hall and The Place Theatre in Euston from February 2 to 4. The *Spring Collection* is the British equivalent of Paris's biennial festival, *Rencontres Chorégraphiques Internationales*.

☐ VERDI's piratical **Il Corsaro** will not be setting sail from Covent Garden as planned next spring. The Royal Opera's first ever staging of the work, planned as a co-production with Turin's Teatro Regio, has been cancelled "for financial reasons". But there will be two concert performances on June 18 and 21 as part of Covent Garden's second Verdi Festival. The current Royal Opera *Tosca* is earmarked to take *Il Corsaro*'s place.

☐ THE CITY of Liverpool's enthusiasm for exploiting its own musical history remains, as ever, unflagging. **Gerry Marsden**, formerly leader of **The Pacemakers**, is to star in the semi-autobiographical musical *Ferry 'Cross The Mersey* — said to combine "the famous Scouse wit" with a host of "classic" songs. Produced by **Bill Kenwright** in association with the city's Playhouse Theatre, it premieres there on February 12 and, after a month-long run, will tour to York, Birmingham, High Wycombe, Manchester, Sunderland, St Albans and Hanley.

☐ NOT surprisingly, perhaps, Scarborough's Stephen Joseph Theatre has chosen a play by artistic director **Alan Ayckbourn** as its final production before moving to a new £5.1 million home in a converted Odeon cinema. *Just Between Ourselves*, which had its premiere in the theatre's previous base (the Scarborough public library), runs from January 5 to February 3. The new Stephen Joseph is due to open at the end of April.



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Master of the Tory Whip

Bruce Anderson pays tribute to Sir David Lightbown

The late David Lightbown's senior colleagues in the Tory Whips' Office were never alarmed by the enforcement techniques which he used against dissident backbenchers. His Chief Whips took the view that such recalcitrants had it coming to them. But one aspect of Sir David's behaviour did cause anxiety: the way he would occasionally treat senior ministers.

There are usually a few drinks going in the Whips' Office after a close vote, to which the ministers involved are invited, and sometimes the PM. It often happened that Lightbown thought that matters should have been handled better. If so, he would convey that sentiment to the Secretary of State, generally by leaning forward and growling: "We won't have another f— up like that in a hurry, will we?"

The spectacle of Lightbown pinning some gently-nurtured Minister like Douglas Hurd in a corner and telling him the facts of political life in an Anglo-Saxon translation was wonderful to behold. Lightbown knew how and when to be tough — an art which Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, has still to learn. Dear old David had another crucial task. In recent years, the Tories have often sent some of their more intellectual backbenchers to complete their education in the Whips' Office: characters like Nigel Lawson, Michael Fallon, Neil Hamilton and latterly David Willetts, who would get alphas in the cerebral exam-papers but keep on failing prelims in the common touch.

> He looked like a piece of Stonehenge with legs

Lightbown took a special interest in clever-clogs who thought that an Oxbridge degree and a stint in the Conservative Research Department had taught them everything about politics. He treated them rather as a Sandhurst Sergeant Major would treat a cocky cadet.

He had a standard line. A newly-appointed youngster would speak up at a Whips' Office meeting. When he finished, there would be a pause and then Lightbown would reply: "Before you give us the benefit of your *views*, sonny, you get your hair cut."

When Sir David resigned from the Whips' Office last summer a connection with traditional Tory whipping was broken. The Whips' Office has always combined the language of the hunting field and the practices of the adjutant's office. A generation ago, this was appropriate. Not only was the office full of former adjutants like Francis Pym: most of their backbenchers had served in the forces and many of them hunted. It was natural for the whips to treat a troublemaking backbencher like a negligent subaltern, and award him extra pickets while instructing him to brace up.

Sir David had also been a soldier. Unlike earlier whips, who had generally held commissions in smart regiments, he had done his national service as a military policeman: a wholly appropriate use of his talents. But he would have understood his predecessors, and they him. Because of his immense physical presence — he looked like a piece of Stonehenge with legs — he was able to keep the old ways going, but even before his retirement, he was an anachronism — a rock of old solidity in an increasingly anarchic world. It is doubtful whether any of his successors will ever be able to have the same physical and moral impact.

The knights of the shires have given way to the esquires of the suburbs. A generation used to orders has been replaced by a generation used to arguing the toss. The deference on which the Tory Party used to depend and which gave it an especial rapport with old-fashioned Britain has crumbled into a witless democracy, in which all opinions, however absurd, are treated as equal.

There is also the metropolitan drift in British politics. David Lightbown was born in Derbyshire, near the Pennines; they stayed with him all his life, in his backbone. He was naturally at home in the self-reliant small towns of middle England: the Burtons and Boltons and Buxtons, where the civic leaders had made a bit of brass but had no desire to transplant themselves to Belgravia. They wanted to live close to the communities where they had been brought up: to base their status on the approval of their own kind and to base their values on the sentiments of the people from whom they had sprung.

In this, they had nothing in common with the flashier type of populist who infests the modern Tory backbenches; mayfly characters, rooted in nothing, with all the defects of populism except popularity. Men like David Lightbown knew that the greatest political virtue is steadiness under fire; they have few successors.

There are Labour equivalents: there is a fine man called Don Dixon, who has been Labour Deputy Chief Whip and who is as tough as David Lightbown. There have been recruits to the Labour Whips' Office of a different kidney, not all to Mr Dixon's liking. It is not known whether he ever told Peter Mandelson to get his hair cut, or whether he was ever that polite.

There are fewer and fewer Don Dixons. The old sergeants' mess Labour Whips' Office is being replaced by a sociology seminar Whips' Office. In the party at large, the horny-handeds are dying out, to be succeeded by preposterous figures like John Prescott. Just because he cannot speak English, he would like to be thought of as a proletarian paladin. But he is only a heterosexual waiter.

Lightbown died while watching a rugger match after eating a good lunch, something he knew how to do. It was far too early, but otherwise an appropriate end. With his death, a mode of politics which is as valuable as it is unfashionable may have passed out of public life. If so, not only the Tory Party, but Britain, are the poorer.

W.R. Johnson looks at the Oxford-educated foreigners who turn into our enemies

Why Rhodes men hate the British

This week the academic world was startled by the revelation in *The Times* that a professional juggler from Vermont, Tobias Ayer, had been granted a Rhodes scholarship at Oxford. But whatever his extraordinary qualifications what are the chances, after completing the two-year course, of Mr Ayer thanking his British sponsors for the privilege?

For instance, President Clinton's admission that his emotional involvement with Irish issues was launched during his period at Oxford will doubtless produce a certain wryness in government circles. What, after all, is the point of scholarship schemes bringing young people to Britain, which end up moulding them so that they return the favour by inflicting grave political embarrassment upon you?

Clinton's achievements at Oxford seem to have been restricted to smoking grass (but no inhaling, of course) and developing a heightened ability to aggravate British Governments over Ireland: he took no degree, after all.

The theme is hardly new. During my own time as a Rhodes scholar there was an acute awareness at Rhodes House that another former Rhodes scholar, the Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff, was more or less single-handedly kicking Britain and the Royal Navy out of Malta. There was, moreover, a long line of colonial nationalists who had studied at the LSE and who had gone back home to become major thorns in Britain's flesh. Even Krishna Menon's time as a town councillor in St Pancras seems to have done nothing to endear him to the British imperialists he was later so tirelessly to denounce.

Sometimes it even seems that there is a directly inverse correlation between the hospitality afforded to foreign students and their later hostile attitude to the host country. There are, for example, no more securely anti-communist people in Africa than the thousands of students who went to study in the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact countries. It is, indeed, a tale of unintended consequences: often such students were more shocked and hurt by racial discrimination they experienced in Moscow or Birmingham than anything they had known in Accra or Nairobi.

In fact, it is hard to know how these things will turn out. Looking back at my own cohort of Rhodes scholars, I suppose the most prominent now is Kris Kristofferson. I didn't, at the time, even know he played the guitar. The most striking American Rhodes scholar of my day was, by bizarre accident, admitted to Christ Church. He hated the Vietnam War, American politicians, and the British upper classes in roughly equal measure. Finding that his Old Etonian peers always began by asking what one's father did, he insisted that his was "the sort of guy who plays the pianner in the whorehouse".

His one unexpected trait was a passion for English antiques. For many years now the American Rhodes scholars' magazine, *The American Oxonian*, has informed us of this man's vital diplomatic service in Laos, Chile, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, and wherever the current troublespot seems to be. It takes no genius to realise that he works for the CIA.

Similarly, the man who infuriated me as a student by scratching all the LPs he borrowed from me became a vice-president of the World Bank and chief financial adviser to the Prime Minister of India. Another student friend who was later responsible for the throwing of a teargas bomb in the House of Commons is today a pillar of Lloyd's.

Sometimes, rarely, things are clearer. One South African Rhodes scholar I knew found that during the fierce fighting he had led at Monte Cassino in 1943, his unit had killed a fellow German Rhodes scholar he used to play rugby with and would often bump into in Blackwell's bookshop.

"It must have been a dreadful moment for you," I said. "Not at all. One of us had to die there," he replied unsentimentally. "But I am glad it was him. He was always a complete bloody Nazi." Or again, the Sikh friend I had whom I once saw in a demonstration down High Street, Oxford, carrying a placard bearing the words "Get our troops out of Ireland" is today a Sikh separatist, which represents, I suppose, consistency of a sort.

Far more numerous than any of these folk were those who went back home with a warm memory of Britain (and, often, an account at Blackwell's and a liking for English antiques), or indeed, those who stayed on in Britain as academics, lawyers, businessmen and other pillars of the Establishment.

So there isn't any moral to be drawn over John Major's bruising experience with former Rhodes scholar Bill Clinton except that Clinton was, actually, more right about Ireland than Major was. Maybe, difficult though it is to admit it, the British needed someone who knew them a bit to force them down a path that they anyway had to tread.

Each year the British welcome thousands of talented young students from abroad into their universities. They glory in showing these young people what respect the British have for independence of mind, for idiosyncrasy and even eccentricity. If a minority among them later disappoint their hosts, the real challenge is to respect them in their difference and to show that all those sermons about tolerance and individualism were not just guff. This is, if you think of it, a triumph of its own in a way.

Large measures of confusion

Why can the French drink their alcohol with such insouciance while the British are guilt-ridden?

Magnus Linklater investigates

Now that we are a 28-units a week nation rather than a 21-units a week nation, do we feel better or worse? Is there a sense of liberation, a jauntiness about the step as we contemplate that extra gin and tonic before lunch, the bonus brandy after dinner? Or is there just a touch of self-disgust, a throbbing hangover of the kind Bertie Wooster was so prone to, "as if some bounder is driving a red-hot spike through your head"?

It's probably a bit of both. We British cannot seem to make up our minds about alcohol or other pleasures. One minute we are wringing our hands about the dangers of drinking and driving, swearing we won't touch another drop, consumed by guilt about the extra sherry that could just push us over the limit. The next we come over all debonair and continental, snapping our fingers as we order another spritzer at some pavement café, half-contemplating asking for something daring, like kir.

Last Tuesday the Government donned its beret and, with Mediterranean panache, announced what it described as its new "daily benchmarks for sensible drinking", raising the maximum limit for men to four units of alcohol a day, and women to between two and three units. That's a glass of wine, a small whisky and a pint for me, and make that a half for the lady.

According to a report endorsed by the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, these increased amounts, if consumed steadily through the week, will reduce the risk of heart disease, particularly for a man over 40, which I am, and for a post-menopausal woman. I doubt, however, if the average drinker is in any need of government guidelines, while the serious drinker is unlikely to pay much attention to them anyway.

George Melly, writing in *The Times* some years back about a significant reduction in his intake of alcohol, calculated that he drank "a dry sherry around noon, maybe a glass of wine at lunch, and then in the evening I'll have two or three gin and tonics and half a bottle of wine and probably a couple of brandies, which for me is practically being teetotal".

He still seems in pretty good shape: I could name some others, moderate drinkers all, who are in far worse health. Governments generally make fools of themselves when they try to interfere in people's drinking habits.

The great temperance movements of the 19th century. Prohibition in the United States, state-controlled off-licences in Scotland and the North of England, all foundered on the determination of drinkers to determine their own alcohol levels whatever the State asked them to do. But so long as there are alcohol statistics — drink-driving, accidents at home or in the office — governments will persist in trying to regulate what we drink. It may be a parental impulse, or it may be the only discernible means by which they feel they can directly adjust the moral fibre of the nation.

It is, however, a thankless task. Our attitudes to alcohol are so deeply ingrained that it is hard to see how they can be seriously changed. We are formed by geography and religion, by long winter nights or thundering messages from the pulpit, and though laws may change, duties increase, and pubs go up or downmarket, our basic attitudes to alcohol are endemic.

The French, Catholic, wine-growing, part-Mediterranean, maddeningly self-confident, have an easygoing approach to drinking. We envy them the way they treat wine as a natural part of everyday life, rather than a matter for guilt or bravado. As Roland Barthes once described it:

"Other countries drink to get drunk, and this is accepted by everyone; in France, drunkenness is a consequence, never an intention. A drink is felt as the spinning-out of pleasure, not as the necessary cause of an effect which is sought: wine is not only a philtre, it is the leisurely act of drinking . . . knowing how to drink is a national technique which serves to qualify the Frenchman, to demonstrate at once his performance, his control and his sociability."

But if the French affect insouciance in their approach to drink, the British seem confused. We cannot decide whether we are still puritanical about our pleasures, or simply self-indulgent. In European eyes the British are associated with drunken weekend binges, lager-louts in Torremolinos, or trolleys piled high with duty-free crates of drink on cross-Channel ferries. In fact, we drink far less than the French, rank only twentieth in the world league of alcohol consumption, and have far fewer drink-associated deaths than, say, the Scandinavians or the East Europeans. It is more a matter of how we feel about it afterwards. Sometimes we may be drawn to continental-style hedonism, but then we feel guilty about it afterwards.

Ancestors of the lager louts, from a 19th century work by Cruikshank. In fact, we drink less than the French

The whole saga of the National Lottery is a perfect example of our divided views. Launched as a bit of harmless fun, a national game in which we can all join in the comforting knowledge that the process will benefit the needy, it has become submerged by waves of recrimination and self-hatred, a sort of lottery hangover in which everyone is blaming everyone else for what happened the night before.

There is here a distinction to be made between Scottish and English attitudes. The Scots, weaned on Calvinism and nurtured in a dark climate, are very much at home with guilt, though less familiar with pleasure. Traditionally they have favoured drinking alone, or in pubs where women are a rarity. Their favourite position, as the poet Hugh MacDiarmid once described it, is standing at the counter, "in that narrow sawdust-filled trough which serves as a comprehensive ash-tray, litter-bin and cuspidor".

It was MacDiarmid's view that the male defiance associated with secret drinking led to the special atmosphere of the Glasgow pubs which is "for connoisseurs of the morose". "It is the old story of those who prefer hard-centre chocolates to soft, storm to sunshine, sour to sweet. True Scots always prefer the former of these opposites. That is one of our principal differences from the English. We do not like the confiding, the intimate, the ingratiating, the hail-fellow-well-met, but prefer the unapproachable, the hard-bitten, the recalcitrant, the sinister, the malignant, the saturnine, the cross-grained and the cankered . . . we have no damned fellow-feeling at all."

I hasten to point out that MacDiarmid was talking about the Scotland of the 1950s. He would have been deeply shocked by the companionable pubs of today. But he had a point about the Scots character. There is a sense of certainty about drinking habits North of the border which seems absent among the English. For if you feel seriously guilty about pleasure to begin with, then you can only feel better later on, when it is over.

I suspect that Mr Dorrell's attempts to encourage a continental approach to drinking will founder, not just on the ambivalence that characterises British attitudes towards pleasure, but on the suspicions which the British harbour towards Europe.

The after-effects of both cause us grave misgivings. If only we could have our morning after first, and our night before afterwards, how much easier life would be.

Sisterly row

THE FRENCH face of female beauty has taken exception to a lesbian magazine bearing her name. Catherine Deneuve was appalled recently to discover the American magazine *Deneuve* on sale in France, and has taken legal steps to get the name changed.

Deneuve: no lesbian links

Deneuve has in its December issue articles with headlines such as "Cybersex" and "Michigan Mania — Womyn, Wimmin, Women". From next month, after an expensive legal battle, it will change its name.

Catherine Deneuve, 50, once played a lesbian vampire in a film called *The Hunger*. But Frances Stevens, publisher of *Deneuve*, claims she took the name from "her first love" who was, coincidentally, called Deneuve.

She adds in an editorial comment that the name "is a derivation of 'Deneuveville', which originally meant that its bearer was 'from the new city'. That's what *Deneuve* is about. We're part of a 'new city' of the lesbian movement."

The magazine's sister publication in England, *Diva*, seems to take a dim view of the development but the serene actress's agent suggested that the change was essential. "She has nothing against the magazine or lesbians, but she has to protect her name."

THE TIMES DIARY

● *Rotten news came Michael Foot's way the other day when he tried to book his customary Christmas lunch at the Soho restaurant, The Gay Hussar, for Monday. For the first time in years, the management was forced to refuse him — trade is so lively that the joint was fully booked.*

Fizzing

THE PURPLE noses of vintners across London rose from their glasses for air yesterday after reports hit the capital of one of the largest purchases of champagne yet recorded. A mystery buyer, fearful that stocks will run out, is said to have put down a deposit of £500,000 to secure champagne for the millennium.

Not one merchant yesterday would admit to having secured the deal, which is said to have been made on behalf of a single individual who must be planning the biggest party yet witnessed.

Quiz biz

JOHN MORTIMER has been promoted to RSC team captain for the annual Christmas theatre quiz against the National Theatre after his stunning performance last year. The playwright will lead Simon Callow, Desmond Barritt and Caroline Blakistone into battle against Simon Russell Beale, Nicholas Wright, Issy van Randwyck and Benjamin Whitrow for the National. Winners will be presented with a crutch used by Anthony Sher as Richard III.

Club babes

AFTER a year fraught with argument and recrimination, the determined stance of the members of the United Oxford and Cambridge University Club in London over full membership for women may be changing. After the Varsity rugby match this week, the two teams invited girlfriends and wives to a dinner at the club.

Old codgers in the club were seen to be stretching their necks to admire the female guests and muttering grudgingly that maybe women should become full members after all. Indeed, so keen was one old fellow to admire the pulchritudinous throng that he asked one of the staff to move a pot-plant, a triffid-like fern that had been obstructing his view.

● *Where has Paul McCartney been all these years? According to his cousin Kate Robbins on Talk Radio UK yesterday, the old crooner tried to buy a round of 35 drinks at a pub in Liverpool recently for a fiver.*

"He found a Euro in his Christmas pudding"

Blue faces

THE BREEZY fens of Cambridge are never more bracing than at this time of year. Pity, then, members of the Cambridge University Boat Club who are still forced to practise on the Cam, even in flurries of snow, for they haven't any headgear to protect their pates.

A recent delivery of woolly hats was sent to the Boat Club office but when they were unpacked it was revealed that they were dark blue, the colours of Oxford University. "Of course we couldn't wear the opposition's colours," said one rower — who had turned a pale Cambridge blue with cold.

Man trouble

AT THE *Independent* yesterday, the paper's managing director Amanda Platell was disconcerted by tabloid reports of the alleged new man in the life of the Princess of Wales, a London property developer by the name of Christopher Whalley.

Until 18 months ago, Platell was reportedly engaged to Whalley and she was quoted extensively in yesterday's papers on her former consort. The Whalley affair rose to the top of the agenda in meetings she chaired yesterday.

Independent Amanda Platell

What the paper's purple-faced former Editor, Andreas Whittam Smith, makes of the hoo-ha hardly bears contemplation. In his day, the mere mention of a member of the Royal Family on his pages would send him into a fit of apoplexy. Little wonder that he was as far away as he could be yesterday — in Japan.

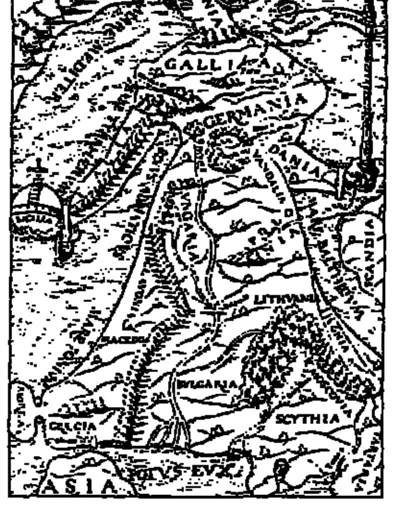
P·H·S

ص ١٩ من الاصل

QUEEN EUTOPIA

Cautionary history lessons for Europe's statesmen

In Madrid, the grand panjandrums of the European Union have again declared that they will not flinch from their target for a single European currency. By word, deed and body language, they are set on dismissing John Major's sceptical questions as mere spittle in the wind of history. In Helmut Kohl's favourite phrase, they hold European integration to be "irreversible". Europe's history contradicts the rash and impractical optimism of that word.



Late 20th-century efforts to unify Europe were born of the horrendous conflicts of the immediate past. But politicians who fail to consult Europe's earlier history risk failure. Curious citizens wondering what the birth of the "euro" might mean for the continent should reflect on earlier dreams for Europe which never came to pass. In the spirit of the EU's word-coiners, we might christen these visions Eutopias.

Federalists like to say that the present EU is Europe's best attempt at unification since Charlemagne. But the medieval competition between popes and emperors, between the temporal and the spiritual, was only distantly related to modern thinking about Europe. The Emperor's idea of "political union" was hardly very peaceful. Hard battles preceded what one historian calls "a general surrender to a beneficent superpower".

The true European ideal did not flower until the Renaissance opened horizons. Europa, the sensuous princess of Tyre made famous by Ovid, reappeared as icon and myth to symbolise the continent's new self-awareness. Men such as Giovanni Botero dreamt of a Europe under a single prince, where all patriotism blended into one and men could go anywhere "with the same language and the same coinage". But already, today's dilemmas were present — beginning with the contours of "Europe". In the 1588 image of Queen Europa pictured here, our isles merely flutter from her sceptre as a pennant. But Germany lies at her bosom, and her skirt gathers in the great central landmass, from Muscovy to Macedonia.

Her heart is no less of a mystery. Renaissance debates about how best to end the continent's divisions are familiar. In 1462, Louis XI toyed with a scheme for collective security that included a European Court of Justice, a common army, an assembly of national representatives and a bureaucracy to service the system. In his *Civilisation of Europe in the Renaissance*, Sir John Hale observes that this project foundered in "uninterest, suspicion and its logistic unrealism"; but some of its elements resurfaced in later plans, including the 1518 Treaty of London, through which Cardinal Wolsey sought a secular resolution of Europe's problems.

And so was born an active tradition of plans for continental unification. All come up against the paradox that, as Hale notes, even as European societies grew more intertwined "national antipathies flourished alongside the increasing pace with which men came to know one another". From Count Coudenhove-Kalergi's planned United States of Europe to the visions of Jacques Delors, there runs a vein of misdirected idealism. These schemes have failed to excite the support necessary to realise them, because Europeans are tenaciously proud of their national identities. To endure, the EU must reflect this: Europe's blend of common culture and political diversity needs delicate balances rather than rigid structures.

The public religion of federalism tries to deny this nuanced truth. Lives of the saints of European integration pretend that its founders saw only a federal future. Yet Paul-Henri Spaak once observed that postwar Europe would have to combine "a certain reawakening of nationalism and an indispensable internationalism". Robert Schuman is rarely remembered for saying that "our European states are a historical reality; it would be psychologically impossible to make them disappear". The challenge is to find elastic ways to help states to co-operate effectively. Europa's chequered career teaches humility. To adapt Henry Ford, the irreversibility of European integration is bunk.

NOT ON SCHEDULE

Rail privatisation should mean genuinely improved service

Britain's railways are under another blanket of the wrong sort of snow. The Court of Appeal has ruled that the Rail Franchiser's proposals for minimum passenger service levels were at odds with the Government's promise to maintain the current British Rail timetable. Save Our Railways (SOR), the victorious campaign group, has forced the Government into an embarrassing delay in its plans. It persuaded the court that by setting minimum service levels so far below those promised to Parliament by John MacGregor, then Transport Secretary, Roger Salmon, the franchiser, had broken a government undertaking. Not only must the all-important details now be changed; but the successful use of court action to alter the terms of this unpopular privatisation must strengthen the resolution of its opponents and place yet further uncertainty over the viability of government plans.

The court's verdict does not, in itself, derail these plans. The first three franchises — Great Western, South West Trains and LTS Rail — may still go ahead; the court said the SOR action had been launched too late. But the terms set for four other lines — InterCity East Coast, Network SouthCentral, Midland Main Line and Gatwick Express — must now be altered; Mr Salmon can invite tenders only from companies willing to run a train service almost as frequent or better than the existing one.

The Government claims that the public service requirement (PSR) was set lower than the current timetable only because it expected this frequency to be surpassed, especially on profitable lines. To impose the same timetable as BR now runs would be to deny the new franchises any commercial leeway at all. Potential operators are already circumscribed by tomes of regulation: on safety, track charges, through-ticketing, operating subsidies and the PSR. Any more regulation, the Government argued, would destroy all commercial initiative.

SOR suspicions that a minimum requirement would become a minimum service are, however, hard to disprove. Despite guarantees on little-used lines and early and late services, anything less than legal insistence might fall prey to lobbying by hard-pressed franchise operators. On some services there has been a remarkable coincidence between the trains that potential operators want to scrap and those Mr Salmon said could be dropped. The Government, which intends to take the case to the Lords, must now show that neither the intention nor the application of its PSR is to undercut the service now provided. The justification of this messy privatisation is to get more and better service on the railways. That should be the prime legal and political interest now.

BELLS AND SMELLS

The first Christmas was miraculous but not aromatic

Woolworths is enhancing 20 of its stores with a "seasonal aroma" of mulled wine. This is inspiriting news. The trial panel rejected the odours of cloves and Christmas pudding, and voted mulled wine the smell most likely to tempt shoppers to linger.

The store does not even sell alcohol, and so can not be accused of awakening unwholesome desires for a fortifying glass among harassed parents queueing for stocking-fillers. The move is the latest in a spate of attempts by retailers and producers to exploit the most underestimated of our senses in their battle for sales. Instant coffee producers have started to "inject" aroma into some of their top brands so that the jar smells of freshly roasted beans while continuing to taste like an insipid imitation of this delicacy. The BOC group, Britain's largest manufacturer of industrial gases, is offering a new range of smells for use in public spaces, including freshly baked bread to attract those nostalgic for kitchen smells, and smoking-gun essence for the bellicose.

Christmas is the one time of year when mince-pies, hot toddies, roasting turkey and pine trees pervade our consciousness. The smells of the first Christmas, however, were far different from those we now associate with the feast. Given the state of human hygiene at the time, the throng of animals and worshippers in the dank stable of Bethlehem must have produced an overwhelming odour. The three kings' frankincense and myrrh would have been welcomed for their power as masking smells as well as for their symbolic value.

While English winter cooking has always been rich in seasonal recipes with their associated wafts, it was the Hanoverians, raised in the Germanic Christmas tradition, who first established among the upper classes the idea of obligatory Christmas eats, based around the strict Lutheran interpretation of Advent. Not until Victoria and Albert did the habits of decorating houses and trees reach the middle classes; during her reign there was a sudden expansion in the variety of Christmas fayre. Roast turkey joined the table much later from the United States, its easy preparation, blandness and cheapness edging out more expensive, smaller birds.

The trouble with all things Christmassy is that their smell-by date falls straight after the 25th. Orders should therefore flock in soon for another of BOC's new products: a non-specific "clean smell" to exorcise the faded aromas of another Christmas past.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Plight of refugees seeking asylum

From Sir Julian Critchley, MP for Aldershot (Conservative)

Sir, I have written to Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, to express my grave concern at the effect that his proposal to withdraw welfare benefits from the majority of asylum-seekers (letters, December 11; report, December 12) will have on survivors of torture. As well as the effect on them individually, it will adversely affect rehabilitation work on the part of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

Withdrawal of benefits will put many of its clients in an intolerable position. Many have their claims to political asylum refused by the Home Office, even though they have medical evidence to support their accounts of torture. Later, after a wait of over a year in some cases, some of them are, on appeal, recognised as refugees.

Refusing benefits to those who apply for asylum when they are already here makes it virtually impossible for them to have the chance to explain why they fear persecution. Under the new rules these survivors of torture will be left destitute while their cases are dealt with.

Over the nine years since the foundation was established, its workers have helped to rebuild hundreds of shattered lives through a unique combination of medical care, psychotherapy and practical help. But this work can take place only in a situation of stability and safety.

If clients are terrified of being sent back to face possible further torture, if they are preoccupied with the problem of how to pay for the next meal for themselves and their families, they cannot possibly start on the longer-term process of rehabilitation.

I hope that Peter Lilley will think again about this callous and unjust action, which will have such a devastating effect on people's lives and on the reputation of government and party.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN CRITCHLEY,
House of Commons.
December 12.

From Miss Nicola A. Hillman

Sir, Bruce Anderson's article, "No one has a right to asylum" (December 8), refers to "the Geneva Convention". The relevant law is the 1951 UN Convention on refugees and its 1967 protocol, to which Britain is a signatory. Unless we withdraw from it we are bound by the principle that a person with a well founded fear of persecution on one of the five stipulated grounds cannot be returned to the relevant country.

Political asylum is not merely "a 19th-century idea"; the latter part of the 20th century has brought the realisation that people need wider protection from human-rights abuses and the horrors of civil strife. Many of these were caused by Western nations having reorganised countries without adequate consideration for how the people should live together.

The statement that Britain could "sink under the weight of refugees" is misguided and improbable. Britain is also a signatory to the 1990 European Communities' Dublin Convention on States' responsibility for asylum. It provides that asylum-seekers must apply in the first "safe" country in which they arrive. The geographical position of Britain makes it very difficult for someone to arrive here without stopping first in a safe country further east, such as Germany. Once an application has been made, the Convention provides that a second application cannot be made on arrival in Britain.

When a writer in *The Times* can make such an insulting comment as that the "non-European stock" of the country "do have and cause problems" in our society, I find it no wonder that some members of racial minorities claim they are discriminated against.

Yours truly,
NICOLA HILLMAN,
45 Dorset Mews, N3.
December 11.

From Mr Ernest Pendrous

Sir, Today's letter from the Bishop of Liverpool and others is another example of how our liberal establishment always favours the incomer. Would it not be pleasant if for once they had voiced concern for the increasing abuse of the nation's welfare system?

Yours sincerely,
ERNEST PENDROUS,
2 Twyford Court,
Twyford Avenue, W3.
December 11.

From Dr Ian Blake

Sir, It may be worth reflecting that the criteria refined by the Home Secretary's seasonal adjustment would rule "I was told, in a dream, to arise and flee" to be grounds insufficient for granting political asylum.

By the time irrefutable evidence became available, the contingency would no longer arise because the sole reason for making an application in the first place would lie slaughtered, along with the other innocents.

I remain, yours faithfully,
IAN BLAKE,
Blair Cottage, Aultgrishan,
Melvaig, Gairloch, Wester Ross.
December 14.

Weekend Money letters, page 35

Implications of a single currency

From Mr Vernon Ellis

Sir, John Major is right to demand a detailed study into the implications of introducing a single European currency (report, December 15). However, such a study must not serve simply to delay the process of currency union.

A survey conducted by Andersen Consulting has shown that more than 70 per cent of major European businesses support EMU (European monetary union). The survey shows that what business needs more than anything else is an end to uncertainty. What is required is a stable economic environment in which to make planning and investment decisions.

Business leaders have asked for a clear and precise timetable for the start of EMU, the earliest possible announcement of participants and well-defined entry criteria for the remaining countries. This is not to deny the significant political and economic complexities which need to be addressed. But it is vital that business, particularly British business, has a voice in this debate.

Yours etc,
VERNON ELLIS
(Managing Partner, Europe),
Andersen Consulting,
2 Arundel Street, WC2.
December 15.

From Dr Martin Holmes

Sir, The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, is right to argue that a single European currency would imply a surrender of economic and financial self-governance (report, December 15).

When the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, earlier this year asserted the opposite ("Clarke pleads for less dogma and more sense", February 10) he did so by citing the example of the Republic of Ireland, which maintained the pound sterling as its currency for fifty years after the creation of the Irish Free State but did not surrender its political sovereignty.

The point the Chancellor seems to have missed is that the Republic of Ireland never gave up its sovereign right to issue its own currency, whereas under Stage III of the Maastricht treaty the legal-tender issue is wholly surrendered to a European central bank.

EU member States would thus give up their right to issue their own currencies. Should this occur a federal Europe is inevitable.

I remain, Sir, yours etc,
MARTIN HOLMES
(Co-Chairman,
The Bruges Group),
44 Park Town, Oxford.
December 15.

IRA arms and the future of talks

From Mr Patrick O'Brien

Sir, Should the IRA decommission its weapons it would not be a token of surrender but an acknowledgement that they have learnt, after 25 years of mayhem, that the way to influence people is through persuasion, not violence (letters, December 14).

Unless they make this point they are not yet fit to negotiate with. A stock of weapons and murderous habits are not the main qualifications of democratic politicians.

Yours etc,
PATRICK O'BRIEN,
2 Evening Glade, Ferndown, Dorset.
December 14.

From Professor Geoffrey Lee Williams

Sir, Now that the IRA have refused to decommission any of their arms in line with the so-called "Washington Three" principle, reaffirmed by the recent Anglo-Irish deal (reports, November 29 and 30), their apologists need to be questioned.

They should be asked to identify a single case in the past 20 years of a successful termination of an insurgency campaign in any part of the globe which did not inescapably involve some diminution of arms by the insurgent group as part of a lasting peace process. They should further explain why Northern Ireland should be an exception to the peace process pursued in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Namibia, Angola and Cambodia.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS,
Centre of International Studies,
History Faculty Building,
West Road, Cambridge.

From Mr S. Arenow

Sir, Is not the reason for the IRA declining disarmament in advance of talks that unless they achieve their aim of a united Ireland, they will revert to the use of arms? For what other reason would their arms be required?

Yours faithfully,
S. ARENOW,
As from: 54 Montrose Court,
Princes Gate, SW7.

Roman gold

From Mr G. de la Bédoyère

Sir, In your report of December 9 on the declaration of a recently discovered hoard of 2nd century Roman coins as treasure trove, you refer to the hoard's importance "because little historical information has been available to scholars about the period".

May I remind your readers that there is no demonstrable connection between any one Roman coin hoard and historical events. There was almost no alternative to hoarding valuables before early modern times so the purpose behind depositing the coins was very probably practical and quite common.

Most hoards were recovered in the normal course of events. The failure to recover goods is attributable to an indistinguishable variety of possibilities, including forgetfulness and death from sickness. Readers of Pepys's diary (October 10, 1667) will know that he and his father were unable to recover all their hoarded coins from the garden because they had become dispersed in the soil.

Hoards only become historically meaningful when a disproportionately large concentration all ending with coins of roughly the same date is identified. This new hoard, while exciting and interesting to the numismatist, is of little historical value in its own right.

Yours faithfully,
GUY de la BÉDOYÈRE,
20 Eltham Park Gardens,
Eltham, SE9.
December 9.

Space frontiers

From Mr Stephen Ashworth

Sir, Anjana Ahuja is too modest in her defence of the $1.4 billion spent on the *Galileo* space mission to Jupiter ("The music of the spheres", December 8). Though it will indeed contribute to our understanding of our existence, as she argued, it also represents a very substantial investment in the future growth of our civilisation. A century from now we could be mining the atmosphere of Jupiter for the helium-3 to fuel fusion reactors that will generate clean energy both on Earth and for space construction projects, as the British Interplanetary Society has proposed.

Clearly, only a civilisation that can look outwards to new horizons has much potential for long-term growth. We live in an age which urgently needs to inspire its youth to believe in the future, and to find some more realistic unifying goal for mankind than a common currency or common defence policy. What better motivating goal can there be than the exploration of other worlds in space?

Thank you, *Galileo*, for raising our attention above the mundane affairs of this planet for a while, showing us something of the wonder of the universe we inhabit, and reminding us that the space age has barely yet begun.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN ASHWORTH
(Fellow, British Interplanetary
Society),
49 Princes Street, Oxford.
December 8.

Synod and sin

From the Reverend R. P. Bowskill

Sir, Mr T. J. P. Stevenson (letter, December 8) explains why, far from backing "the controversial report on the family" the synod (report, December 1) was merely asked to "take note" of it.

It appears that had synod voted to reject it, the decision would have prevented it from being debated again during the present synod's lifetime, which, with elections only just over, is five years. This whole subject is far too important to have been summarily dismissed.

As Mr Stevenson says, we cannot conclude that the "liberal wing" has increased its strength in synod. The vote (122 for, 104 against, in the house of laity; 164-60 clergy; and only four bishops against the proposition) shows that there is still much dissatisfaction among members.

Yours faithfully,
R. P. BOWSKILL,
Sun Life of Canada,
Group Insurance Division,
Basing View,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Lane discipline

From Dr Aileen K. Adams

Sir, Quentin Letts states baldly that "American drivers have poor lane discipline" ("America lets off the brakes", Travel, December 7). If this were true it would be astonishing that so many live to tell the tale.

Americans are, if not born, at least virtually brought up in motor cars. They had multi-lane roads decades before we did, and of far greater complexity, so lane discipline is second nature to them.

The US has different rules of the road. Drivers choose the lane that is moving at approximately the speed they want to travel, which may involve overtaking on either side depending on traffic conditions.

In Britain the rule is to keep to the nearside except when overtaking. This results in cars continually weaving from one lane to another, which in the USA would soon excite the wrath of the traffic cops.

Yours faithfully,
AILEEN K. ADAMS,
12 Redwood Lodge,
Grange Road, Cambridge.

Fresh brushes on the Old Masters

From M Jacques Franck

Sir, May I endorse the claim by Michael Daley (letter, December 8) that paintings were damaged during cleaning for the Vermeer exhibition at the National Gallery in Washington (review, Arts, December 5).

As a teacher of trainee art restorers, I have necessarily included Vermeer in my programme. The painting of his on which students and myself have recently undertaken technical research is *Girl with a Pearl Earring* from the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague, now on view in the Washington exhibition.

The great delicacy and charm of that portrait has clearly been diminished during restoration, due to the removal of the subtle original glazing deployed by the artist in the modelling and shading of the sitter's face. As a result, the girl's nose now looks incongruously oversimplified, in the manner of a modernist painter such as, say, Modigliani.

Nearly fifty years ago another artist, Allan Gwynne-Jones, complained in these columns (letter, November 21, 1946) of the loss of expressive touches from the mouth of the sitter in Rubens's portrait, *Chapeau de Paille*, during its cleaning by the National Gallery in London. He called for a period of notice to be served by museums planning to clean pictures, so that expertise might be made available to restorers and curators and the disasters then common during cleaning avoided.

The Washington exhibition would suggest that such a procedural safeguard is more urgently needed than ever. In France, recent publications emanating from authoritative scientists and technicians address the issue of overcleaning: they testify to the vulnerability of glazes, explaining that in Old Master painting most glazes included varnish made of natural resins which are very sensitive to solvent action.

Yours sincerely,
JACQUES FRANCK,
10 Allée du Val de Marne,
94370 Sucy en Brie, France.
December 8.

Radio 1's nativity

From Mr J. L. Churcher

Sir, It is saddening to read about the BBC's plan to broadcast "a new version" of the nativity story (report, December 11) featuring swearing and blasphemy from the mouths of Mary and Joseph.

I am amazed that this can be seen as an attempt to communicate the Christmas story to a wide audience: it is an alteration which reverses the attitude of Mary as described in the Bible and trivialises the incarnation. I believe that it will be deeply offensive to all who find comfort and hope in the real meaning of Christmas.

The last few years have produced a wealth of creative contemporary plays and songs about Christ which would be fun and provocative for a Radio 1 audience. There is no reason why a public service broadcaster should resort to something which will offend against the faith and feelings of many of the potential audience, especially at Christmas time. The BBC should reconsider their scheduling and replace this item with something more sensitive to the convictions of so many millions of its listeners.

Yours sincerely,
J. L. CHURCHER,
11 Springfield Close, Buckden,
Nr Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.
December 11.

From the Reverend Robert Harrison

Sir, I was delighted to read that Radio 1 is planning an upbeat dramatisation of the birth of Jesus Christ, but I was very disappointed to read that the play uses the all too common blasphemy, "Oh my God!"

What does it say about our society that the BBC enthusiastically suppresses the "F-word", but allows the indiscriminate use of the "G-word", even in a religious programme?

Journalists and politicians are often quick to criticise the Church for not upholding traditional values. How about a little respect for the fourth commandment?

Yours,
ROBERT HARRISON,
31 Olive Road, Cricklewood, NW2.
December 11.

Post early, perhaps

From Mr C. C. H. Alderson

Sir, My Christmas-card list copes with all but a few "unexpecteds", to which I normally reciprocate. But what should I do about Mr Peter Howarth, CBE, Managing Director, Royal Mail, who caught me out this year?

If I send him a card it will be obvious that I am only doing so because he sent me one. If I don't, will he chop me off his list next year?

His card thoughtfully reminds me that the last posting date is December 20. So I don't have long to decide.

Yours faithfully,
C. C. H. ALDERSON,
25b Great King Street, Edinburgh 3.
December 12.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 15: His Excellency Monsieur Richard Adjaho was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Benin to the Court of St James's.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

Mr William Sinton was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Panama.

Mrs Sinton was also received by The Queen.

Mr Glyn Davies was received in audience by Her Majesty upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to the Republic of Namibia.

Mrs Davies was also received by The Queen.

Mr Tony Millson (Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) was received by The Queen.

Miss Jessica Pearce was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon her appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus.

Mr Marcus Hope was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Zaire.

Mrs Hope was also received by The Queen.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Outward Bound Trust, this evening attended a Dinner at St James's Palace.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 15: The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this morning heard reports at St James's Palace from business leaders who have taken part in the "Seeing is Believing" Programme.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 15: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, The Royal Ballet, this afternoon attended the Kenneth MacMillan Choreographic Competition at the Royal Ballet School, White Lodge, Richmond Park.

Royal engagements

TODAY:
The Duke of Edinburgh will attend a luncheon and will open the West stand of the Rugby Football ground at Twickenham at 12.35; and will watch the England v Western Samoa match commencing at 2.30.

Princess Margaret will open the Norwich Playhouse and attend the gala opening performance in Norwich at 7.45.

The Duchess of Kent, as patron, will attend the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund carol concert at Eton College at 5.55.

Evangeline Bruce

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Evangeline Bruce will be held in the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, London W1, at noon on Wednesday, December 20.

Middle Temple

Mr M.D. Sherrard, QC, has been elected Treasurer of the Middle Temple for 1996; Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead has been elected deputy treasurer.

Service dinner

***HMS Northwood* Training Department**

Former officers of the *HMS Northwood* Training Department held their annual ladies night dinner last night at the Savile Club. Lieutenant Commander Michael Billingham presided.

Dinner

Royal Society of St George

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the Christmas dinner of the City of London branch of the Royal Society of St George held last night at the Mansion House. Mr Nigel L. Blood, chairman, presided. The Lord Mayor, Sir William Stabb, QC, and the Rev Basil Watson also spoke. Among others present were: The Tunisian Ambassador and Mrs Lessir, the High Commissioner for New Zealand, Vice-Admiral Sir James and the Hon Lady Weatherall, Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo, Admiral Sir Peter and Lady Herbert, Judge Sir Lawrence and Lady Verney, Lady Stabb, Sir William and Lady Shapland, the Master of the Glovers' Company, Group Captain and Mrs Edward Cox, Alderman Mr Gavyn Arthur and Colonel John Ansell.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Professor Sir Harold Bailey, former Professor of Sanskrit, 96; Mr J.M. Blackburn, chief executive, Halifax Building Society, 54; Mr N.C. Blamey, artist, 81; Sir Michael Carlisle, former chairman, Trent Regional Health Authority, 66; Mr Arthur C. Clarke, science writer, 78; Her Honour Myrella Cohen, QC, 68; Professor Bernard Crick, author, 66; the Hon Peter Dickinson, author, 68; Mrs Jacqueline Duncan, Principal, Inchbald School of Design, 64; Mr Joel Garner, cricketer, 43; Sir Robert Gunn, former chairman, The Boots Company, 70; Miss Heather Hallett, QC, 46; Sir Jasper Hollom, former Deputy Governor, Bank of England, 78; Mr John Kirwan, rugby player, 31; Miss Jacqui Lait, MP, 48; Lord Margadale, 89; Lord Mottistone, 75; Mr Trevor Pinnock, harpsichordist and conductor, 49; Sir Victor Pritchett, CH, author and critic, 95; Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett, 73; Miss Liv Ullmann, actress, 57; Mr W.H.P. Whatley, trade unionist, 73; Lieutenant-General Sir Roger Wheeler, 54.

TOMORROW: Mr Peter Blackburn, chairman, Nestlé UK, 55; Dame Mary Cartwright, former Mistress, Girton College, Cambridge, 95; Professor Mark Casson, economist, 50; Mr Christopher Cazenove, actor, 50; Viscount Daventry, 74; Lord de Villiers, 84; Lord Glenamara, CH, 83.

Mr Bernard Hill, actor, 51; Miss Gwendolen Kirby, former matron, Great Ormond St Hospital for Sick Children, 84; the Hon Dominic Lawson, Editor, *The Sunday Telegraph*, 39; Lord McFadzean, KT, 92; Mr Tom Mayer, electronic engineer, 67; Mr Kerry Packer, chairman, Australian publishing and broadcasting companies, 58; Sir Leonard Peach, chairman, Police Complaints Authority, 63; Mr Robert Robinson, broadcaster, 68; Mr D.A.G. Smith, Headmaster, Bradford Grammar School, 61; Mr Tommy Steele, actor and singer, 59; Professor W.A.C. Stewart, former Vice-Chancellor, Keele University, 80; Baroness Strange, 67; Mr Cecil Walker, MP, 71.

Anniversaries this weekend

TODAY
BIRTHS: Catherine of Aragon, first wife of King Henry VIII, Alcalá de Henares, Spain, 1485; Ludwig van Beethoven, composer, Bonn, 1770; Jane Austen, novelist, Steventon Rectory, Hampshire, 1775; Zoltán Kodály, composer, Kecskemet, Hungary, 1882; Sir John (Jack) Hobbs, cricketer, Cambridge, 1882; Sir Noel Coward, playwright and composer, London, 1899.

DEATHS: Wilhelm Grimm, collector of folk tales, Berlin, 1859; Charles Camille Saint-Saëns, composer, Algiers, 1921; Glenn Miller, dance band leader, reported missing in flight to France, 1944; W Somerset Maugham, novelist and playwright, Nice, 1954.

Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector, 1653.

The Boston Tea Party took place, 1773.

The Battle of the Bulge began in the Ardennes, 1944.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Prince Rupert, royalist commander in the civil war, Prague, 1619; Sir Humphry Davy, inventor of the miners' safety lamp, Penzance, 1778; Jules de Goncourt, diarist, Paris, 1830; Ford Madox Ford, novelist and critic, Merton, Surrey, 1873.

DEATHS: Simón Bolívar, "Liberator" of South America, Santa Marta, Colombia, 1830; William Thomson, 1st Baron Kelvin, physicist, Largs, Strathclyde, 1907; Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, physician and advocate of women's rights to practise medicine, Aldeburgh, 1917; Sir Bernard Spilsbury, pathologist, London, 1947; Dorothy L. Sayers, detective novelist, essayist and translator, Witham, Essex, 1957; Harold Holt, Prime Minister of Australia 1966-67, drowned off Portsea, Victoria, 1967.

The first powered flight was achieved by the Wright brothers in the *Kitty Hawk*, at Kill Devil Hill, North Carolina, 1903.

The battle of the River Plate: the *Graf Spee* was scuttled off Montevideo, 1939.

The closure of the Suez Canal resulted in petrol rationing, 1956.

DES JENSON

A charming painting of a little boy with a spaniel, *Portrait of Master Neate*, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, being hung in Kenwood House, north London. It is one of a number from the collection of Sir Michael Sobell, who died in 1993, which are now on show at the house near Hampstead Heath. The paintings have been loaned for two years by the trustees of the estate of Sir Michael, a former chairman of GEC

Church news

Appointments

Canon Brian Bailey, Rector, Wokingham and an Honorary Canon of Christ Church (Oxford): *to be Vicar, Broadclyst in the* Pinhoe-Broadclyst Team Ministry (Exeter).

The Rev Enid Barnes, Assistant Curate, Bentley: to be Team Vicar, Chell Team Ministry (Lichfield).

The Rev Fred Cheall, Vicar, Chipping and Whitewell (Blackburn): to be Rector, Wensley w West Witton (Ripon).

The Rev Bob Coles: to be Priest-in-charge, Minster w Monkton and continues as Priest-in-charge, St Nicholas-at-Wade w Sarre and Chislet (Canterbury).

The Rev Paul Daltry, Curate, St Matthew's, Ipswich: to be Priest-in-charge, Needham Market w Badley and Barking w Darmsden (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Nigel Dent, Chaplain, HM Prison, Wellingborough: to be Team Rector, Duston (Peterborough).

The Rev David Evans, Rector, Heyford w Stowe-Nine-Churches and Chaplain to the Northamptonshire Police: to be also Rural Dean of Daventry (Peterborough).

The Rev Christopher Futcher, Vicar, All Saints, Pin Green, Stevenage: to be Vicar St Stephen, St Albans (St Albans).

The Rev David Isiorho, Priest-in-charge, Bradford St Oswald, and Bradford Diocesan Black Anglican Concerns Link Person (Bradford): to be Priest-in-charge, Brereton St Michael (Lichfield).

The Rev Christopher Mann, Sacrist and Warden of the College of Minor Canons, St Paul's Cathedral (London): to be Rector, Upminster, St Laurence (Chelmsford).

Marriage

Mr N.C. Wodtke and Miss M.A. Bonner

The marriage took place, among family and friends, on Saturday, November 25, at The Old North Church, Nantucket Island, USA, of Mr Nicholas Cross Wodtke, son of Mr Peter Wodtke and Mrs Carol Cross Wodtke, to Miss Madelyn Bonner, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Bonner. The Rev T. Richard officiated.

Appointment

Mr Andrew Green to be Ambassador to Saudi Arabia from March 1996 in succession to the Hon David Gore-Booth who will be moving to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

Church in Wales

The Rev Paul Hugh Varah, Vicar of Esclusham, has been nominated as incumbent of Connah's Quay, Deeside, Clwyd, diocese of St Asaph.

University news

Cambridge

Darwin College

David Anthony John Cockburn, (Munby Fellow in Bibliography, 1996-97) has been elected into a visiting fellowship.

Latest wills

Sir Gawain Westray Bell, of East Ilsley, Berkshire, the last expatriate Governor of Northern Nigeria 1957-62, left estate valued at £143,613 net.

He left £1,000 each to Winchester College, the Brain Research Trust, and the Ophthalmic Hospital of the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

Mrs Rose Marjorie Jones, of Torquay, Devon, left estate valued at £2,111,175 net.

She left £317,000 and other bequests to personal legatees, £25,000 to the RNIB and a further £10,000 for Talking Books, £15,000 each to Paignton Zoological Gardens, the Rowcroft Hospice, Torquay, Barnardo's, PDSA, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Canine Defence League, and Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, £10,000 each to Torbay Hospital League of Friends, the RNLI, RSPCA and NSPCC, £2,000 to the RSPB and the residue to form "The Marjorie and Geoffrey Jones Charitable Trust".

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D. Allchurch and Miss J. McEachran

The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Allchurch, of Leeds, and Joanna, only daughter of the late Mr Hugh McEachran and of Mrs Carolyn McEachran, of Carmunnock, Glasgow.

Mr J.C. Appleby and Miss S. Vignes

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Allan Appleby, of Ascot, Berkshire, and Sophie, daughter of Dr Claude and Dr Brigitte Vignes, of Montmorency, France.

Mr E.J. Coke and Miss S.E.O. Long

The engagement is announced between Edward Justin, younger son of Major and Mrs Richard Coke, of Weasenham, Norfolk, and Suzannah Elizabeth Olivia, only daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Paul Long, of Assington Green, Suffolk, and Mrs Kerry Long, of Anmer, Norfolk.

Dr M.R. Harston and Dr A.C. Richard

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of the late W.A. Harston and of Mrs Edna Harston, of London, and Alexandrine, daughter of M and Mme Bruno Richard, of Paris.

Mr S.D. Merricks and Dr M.J. Sore

The engagement is announced between Simon Dominic, son of Dr L.C. Merricks and stepson of Dr A.J. Howkins, of Brighton, and son of Mr P. Merricks and stepson of Mrs A. Grace, of Bexley, and Melanie Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs T. Sore, of Peasenhall, Suffolk.

Mr O.E. Woolley and Miss C.C. Dacombe

The engagement is announced between Oliver, youngest son of Mr Edward Woolley, of Sutton, West Sussex, and of Mrs Joy Woolley, of Chichester, and Celia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs William Dacombe, of London, SW14.

Church services tomorrow

Third Sunday in Advent

ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Ireland in C, The truth from above (V Williams); 6.30 ES, Wake O wake with tidings thrilling (Bach), Responses (Clucas), Short service (Gibbons), Rejoice in the lord alway (Purcell), The Provost.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Darke in F, Noel nouvelet (Rutter); 3.30 Nine lessons & carols.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Darke in E, Rejoice in the Lord (Anon), God be in my head (Davies), Aaron's Blessing (Rutter), Rev C Taylor; 4 Choral E, Responses (Smith), The record of John (Gibbons), Rev Canon D McCormack.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M, The Lamb (Taverner); 10.30 Euch, Short service (Batten), Canon D Galilee; 4 Choral Euch, This is the record of John (Gibbons), The Provost.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Expande manus meus (Lassus), Mass for Trebles (Latham), Ave verum (Mozart), Canon J Simpson; 3.30 Choral E, Like as the hart (Greene), Canon A Redfern.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Messe cum Jubilo (Duruflé), Prope est dominus (Regnart), Rev P Fisher; 3.15 E, Responses (Rutter), Throw away thy rod (Ferguson); 5 Nativity; 6.30 Compline, Rev P Brett.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland (Bach), This is the record of John (Gibbons), Prelude and Fiddle Fugue in D (Bach), Canon D Weston; 3.30 Nine lessons & Carols.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC, Vice Provost; 9.30 Euch, Canon D Knight; 11.15 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), Vice Provost; 3 RAD Service; 6 Choral E, Responses (Morley), Short service (Gibbons), This is the record of John (Gibbons), The Provost.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Choral M, Responses (Ferial), Benedicite & Benedictus (Dyson), The Dean; 11.30 Choral Euch, Missa O Magnum Mysterium (Victoria); 3.30 Choral E, For lo, I raise up that bitter and nasty nation (Stanford); 6.30, Expectans Expectavi (Wood), Canon M Rees.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Benedicite (Harris), Benedictus (Chant), Come my way (Cooper), The Chancellor; 11 S Euch, O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Behold, it is Christ (Hooper), Rev Canon K Hobbs; 3.30 Candlelight; 5.30 E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 MS, Benedicite (Dyson), Canon Gordon; 11.15 S Euch, Missa simile est regnum coelorum (Lobo), Tantum ergo (Duruflé), Canon A Peacocke; 6 E Expectans expectavi (Wood).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, This is the record of John (Gibbons), Canon P Oestreicher; 3.30 E, People look east (Wright), Responses (Byrd), Rejoice in the Lord (Redford).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Byrd for four voices (Byrd), This is the record of John (Gibbons), Rev Canon R Parsons; 4 E, Dyson in F, Thou judge of quick and dead (Wesley), Rev Canon G Marshall.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Benedicite (Harris), Christ is the morning-star (Lloyd), Canon S Pedley; 11.15 HC, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Adoro te devote (Lloyd), Canon D Hodgson; 3.30 E, O Adonai (Antiphon), There is no rose (Joubert); 4.30 Lighting of tree and blessing.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), De caelo veniet (Handl), O God, from heaven look below (Praetorius), Rev D Cockerell; 3.45 E, Preces (Moore), Hark, what a sound (Fletcher).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Ave Maria (Arcadelt), View me, Lord (Lloyd), Prebendary S Philpott; 11.15 M, Responses (Rose), Rorate coeli (Byrd), Sub Dean; 3 E, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton); 6.30 Service, Rejoice in the lord (Anon), The Treasurer.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, There is no rose (Joubert), The Treasurer; 4 Carol service, The Provost.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina); Benedicite (Sumsion), O sacrum convivium (Tallis), The Dean; 3.30 E, Responses (Shephard), Vox dicentis (Naylor).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Schubert in G, The Precentor; 11.15 M, Benedicite (Marshall), Benedictus (Stanford), How beautiful upon the mountains (Stainer), Mr J Walker 3.45 EP; 7.30 BBC and Carol service.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP&HC; 10.30 Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Canon M Boyling; 3 Blessing and lighting of tree; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 H Euch, Rev N Court; 9 Parish Euch, Rev Boon-Hor Khoo; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Walton), Set me a seal upon thy heart (Walton), The Dean; 12.15 HC; 3.30 Choral Euch, Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks (Howells); 6.30 Parish E, Rev J Redvers Harris.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, This is the record of John (Gibbons), Canon J Atherton; 6.30 E, O thou, the central orb (Wood), The Dean

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 8, The Provost; 9.30 For four voices (Byrd), Guade et laetare (Sweelinck); 6, Responses (Ayleward), This is the record of John (Gibbons)

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Missa O magnum mysterium (Victoria); 6.30 E Ave Maria (Lindley)

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, The Precentor; 10 Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Ave Maria (Parsons), Canon D Durston; 11.30 M, Responses (Lloyd), Benedicite (Jackson), Jubilate (Howells), Ecce concipies (Handl); 3 E, Responses (Lloyd), Vox dicentis (Naylor)

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 MP; 9.30 Parish C, Canon J Sinclair; 11 Euch, The Provost; 3.30 E&S; 8 Christ in quiet.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 11 Choral Euch, Messe solennelle (Vierne), There is a rose (Joubert), The Provost; 3 E, Hymne a la Vierge (Villette), Rev Canon D Atkinson.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 Parish C; 11 M, Prepare ye the way of the Lord (Wise), The Precentor; 3.15 E Light of the world (Elgar); 6 Compline; 6.30 Healing.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, The Treasurer; 10 S Euch, Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light (Bach), E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come (Manz); 6, Responses (Radcliffe), This is the record of John (Gibbons), The Librarian.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Parish C, Canon G Nairn-Briggs; 11 Solemn Euch, Benedicite (Jackson), This is the record of John (Gibbons), The Provost; 4 E, Responses (Morley), Never weather-beaten sail (Campion), Canon Knox.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Ave verum (Byrd), Sunday School, Rev G Farran; 11.30 M, Benedicite (Sumsion), And the glory of the Lord (Handel); 3 E, Hosanna to the son of David (Weelkes), Rev R de N Lucas.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Benedictus (Stanford), Rejoice in the Lord (Anon), Canon C Semper; 11.15 Euch, Mass in five parts (Byrd); 3 E, This is the record of John (Gibbons); 5.45 Organ; 6.30 E, Rev Canon E James.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 Mass; 10 MP; 10.30 S Mass, Rejoice in the Lord alway (Anon), Prelude & Fugue (Dupré); 3.30 Carols.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Jubilate (Walton), A hymn to the Virgin (Britten), Wachet auf (Bach), Rev K Barlet; 11.30 Euch, Missa brevis (Kodaly); 3.30 E, A spotless rose (Howells), Canon Morgan.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa brevis (Leighton), Rev Canon R Metcalfe; 11.30 M, Responses (Ayleward), Purcell in B; 4 E, And the glory of the Lord (Handel), R P Cunningham; 7 Carol service.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Laetentur Caeli (Byrd), The Canon; 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Rose), I waited for the Lord (Mendelssohn).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8 LM; 11.30 SM, Rev G Bradley, Mass in G (Mozart), The heavens are telling (Haydn), Rev G Bradley; 4 Parish Carol service.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 M, HC; 10 MS, HC, Missa brevis (Leighton); 11.30 MS, This is the record of John (Gibbons), The Minister; 6 Lessons & Carols; 8 E, Rev D Robertson.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Walton), Benedictus (Moore), Rejoice in the Lord alway (Anon), Rev M Saward; 3.15 E, Vox dicentis clama (Naylor) Rt Rev I Cundy; 6.30 Organ.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel (Elgar), The Vicar; 6 E&B, This is the record of John (Gibbons), Dr C Rawll.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 11 Family, Rev R Tice; 6.30 Christmas Carols, Rev Dr J Stott.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa sine nomine (Heredia), Eheu sustulerunt Dominum (Morley), Ecce concipies (Handl).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children; 11 M, Rev R Elvy, Audivi, Media Nocte (Taverner); 12.15 HC; 6 Nine lessons & Carols.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzon St, W1: 11 Sunday service; 11 Sunday School.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, Rev S Hood; 6.30 Nine lessons & Carols, Rev D Townsend.

FARM STREET, W1: 11, Beata viscera Mariae (Byrd), Mass for four voices (Byrd), Alma Redemptoris Mater (Palestrina), Fr V Hawe.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, J Jennings; 11 Christingle, T Stillwell; 5&7.30 Carols, Rev S Millar & Rev N Gumbel.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Brevis (Mozart), Gaudete Omnes (Praetorius); 12.30, 4.30, 7 Mass; 3.30 V & B, Veni Domine (Morales).

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 Morning, Rev P Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), 10 P&M; 10 HC, Nowhere to lay his head; 6.30 Candlelight carols, Rev Dr P Graves.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 HC, Rev T Bruch; 7 V, Komm, Jesu, komm (Bach), Rev P Schmiege.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa quarti Toni (Victoria), A O Lord, increase my faith (Gibbons), The Rector; 6.30 Nine Lessons & Carols.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Benedicite (Jackson), Darke in A, Ave Maris Stella (Grieg), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Plainsong E, Carols (Britten).

ST CLEMENT DANES: St Christopher's Fellowship Carol Service.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Celebration for Christmas, Rev J McIndoe; 6.30 Rev C MacLeod

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 11 S Euch, How lovely are thy dwellings (Brahms), The Rector; 6 Carols.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch; 7 Advent Carols, John Paul, Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Ennis), Alma redemptoris (Palestrina), Rev B Wilson; 6 Carols.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family, Toccata (Gigout); 6.30 Carols, Fantasia (Bach), Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8&12.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, This is the record of John (Gibbons), Fancy for a double organ (Gibbons), Rev G Beauchamp; 6.30 Christmas Carols.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Lord we beseech thee (Batten), Rev A Shaw.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 10 M, Canon; 11 S Euch, Missa O Magnum Mysterium (Poulenc), This is the record of John (Gibbons), Rev B Fenton; 11.15 Abbey Euch; 3 E; 5.45 Organ; 6 Lessons & Carols; 6.30 E, Rev Canon E James.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8, 12 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev B Schunemann; 11.30 Visitors, The Vicar; 2.45 Chinese Carols; 6.30 Evening, The Vicar.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, Vicar; 11.15 Rev F Gelli; 6.30 Nine Lessons & Carols

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis in C (Mozart), Rt Rev; 6 Advent Carols & SB.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch, Missa Brevis (Preston), This is the record of John (Gibbons), Rev L van der Pump; 6 Christmas carols.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Euch, Short service (Tallis), The bell anthem (Purcell), This is the record of John (Gibbons), Rev D Jones.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa la la maistre pierre (Lassus), Rejoice in the Lord alway (Anon), Fr W Keyes; 6.30 Carols

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Missa a 4 (Byrd), Vox clamantis (Esquivel), Alma redemptoris Mater (Palestrina), Canon C Colven; 6 Advent Carols.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9 HC; 11 Christmas Lessons & Carols, Canon J Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 Carols, Rev J Adams.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, This is the record of John (Gibbons), Responses (Smith); 3.30 Nine lessons & Carols.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Ave Maria (Parsons), Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Bach), Rev S Hobbs.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Byrd & Palestrina, The Chaplain.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Benedicite omnia opera (Sumsion), Benedictus (Ireland), Zion hears her watchman's voices (Bach), Rev R Chapman; 3 Carols.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11.6 Lessons & Carols; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, O taste and see (Goss), Rev C French.

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Your eyes are too pure to look upon evil: why then do you countenance the treachery of the wicked? Why keep silent when they devour those who are more righteous?
Habakkuk 1 : 13 (REB)

BIRTHS

BARNARD - On December 9th 1995, to Sarah (née Kenyon) and Andrew, a daughter, Francesca Emma.

BOYLE - On December 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Matt and Amy, a son, Thomas Patrick, a brother for Sarah.

CAMPBELL - On December 12th, to Andrew and Georgina (née Brighton), a wonderful son, James Dick. Not forgetting baby Eleanor no longer with us.

CORRIN - On December 13th 1995, to Juliette (née Womersley) and Chris, a daughter, Emma Louise.

DANIEL - On December 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Susie and Joe, a beautiful son, Max Joseph.

KHALID - On December 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Rihab Hassanein and Ibrahim Koohand, a lovely son, Khalid, a brother for Awad and Osman.

KIRWAN-TAYLOR - On November 12th, to Helen and Charles, a beautiful son, Ivan Dominic, a brother for Constantin.

LUMSDEN - On Friday 8th December 1995 in Amsterdam, to Angelick (née Van Sambeeck) and James, a daughter, Katriena Wilhelmina Joanna.

LYTH - On 8th December 1995, to Karen (née Allison) and William, a daughter, Lucy Nicola, a sister for Oliver and Sophie.

MacINNES - On December 11th, to Sophy (née Armitage) and Calum, a son, James Alexander, a brother to Robert and Poppy.

PHILLIPS - On November 22nd 1995 at Bedford, to Nicola (née Peck) and Mark, a son, Henry Barratt, a brother for Benjamin.

RUSHMAN - On December 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Nicky and Nigel, a beautiful daughter, Sophie.

BIRTHS

SHARRAD - On December 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Bridget (née West) and John, a very special son, Eden Hunter West.

SHIPTON - On December 4th 1995, to Matthew and Camilla, an adorable daughter, Phoebe Kate.

SUTCLIFFE - On Saturday 9th December, to Marcella (née Pellegrino) and Johnny, a son, Edward John Ralph. A brother for Francesca.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

KILLANIN:DUNLOP - On Dec 17th 1945 at the Church of The Holy Redeemer, Chelsea, Michael, Lord Killanin to Sheila Dunlop.

DEATHS

BROWN - On 13th December 1995, peacefully after a long illness, Sidney Reginald, aged 85 years. Beloved husband of Eileen, and much loved father of Judith, Martin and Virginia, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at Chichester Crematorium on Wednesday 20th December at 12 noon. No letters or flowers please but donations, if desired, may be sent to the Chichester Area Talking News, St Richard's Hospital, Chichester.

BUSHELL - John Christopher Wyndowe C.M.G., on December 14th after a short illness, aged 76. Much loved husband of Theodora, devoted father of Charles and loving stepfather of Thomas and Minty. At his own request there will be no memorial service. Funeral at All Saints Church, Putney Bridge App., SW6, on Thursday December 21st at 10.30 am, followed by a private cremation. Family flowers only.

DEATHS

CAMERON - James Munro, B.A. Oxon. (Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto) - at Toronto, Canada, on Thursday, December 14th, 1995. James Munro Cameron, beloved husband of the late Vera. Dear father of Bridget of California and the late Mark. Loving grandfather of Mary Bridget, John James, Catherine, Thomas, George, Jane and Anne. Dear brother of Sheila Smith. Private cremation. A memorial mass will be held at St Basil's Church in Toronto in mid-January. Arrangements entrusted to Rosar-Morrison Funeral Home, Toronto.

DAVIES - Colin Haydn Davies, M.A. Cantab, on December 14th 1995, in Ludlow, Shropshire, aged 64 years, after an illness bravely borne. Dearest husband of Anne, devoted father of Joanna, Jeremy and Susannah, a loving grandfather of Lily, Henry and Arthur. Classicist and inspirational School Master, much revered. Funeral Service at The Parish Church of St Laurence, Ludlow, on Thursday December 21st at 10 am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for the Macmillan Nurses Fund (Ludlow Branch). Enquiries to A. Hoskins & Son, Funeral Directors, Ludlow, tel: (01584) 872048 or 890275.

de KNOOP - On 15th December 1995, peacefully, at home after a short illness, Peggy aged 94, daughter of the late Jersey and Evelyn de Knoop, beloved aunt and friend to many. Family cremation, followed by service of thanksgiving at St Mungo's Church, Simonburn on Tuesday 19th December at 2.00pm. No flowers please, but donations if desired to Mrs Mole, Simonburn, for the Village Hall Fund.

FOWLER-WRIGHT - Dr. Yolande Joan, FRCS, on 14th December. Admired sister, aunt and friend. Funeral Service to be held at Tidebrook Church at 12 noon on 20th December. Donations to the Macmillan Fund.

DEATHS

GRANT - On December 15th, peacefully, Patricia Grant (formerly Clogg) aged 81 years, of South Kensington. Beloved mother of Christopher and Carolyne, adored grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service will be private. Donations, if desired, to Upton House Residential Home, c/o J. Dilnot Smith & Son, Funeral Directors, Beacon Lane, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent CT13 0PD.

GREEN - Jean, wife of the late Dr. Kenneth Green, died peacefully on December 14th, much loved by family and friends. Service at Macclesfield Crematorium on Wednesday December 20th at 2.30 pm. No flowers, but donations if you wish, to Ward 2 Staff Fund, Macclesfield Hospital, RSPB or charity of your choice.

HARTWELL - Mollie Hartwell M.B.E. aged 81 years of "Littledale" Lavendon passed peacefully away on 12th December 1995. Funeral Service on Friday 22nd December 1995 3.15pm at Norse Road Crematorium, Bedford.

HEPBURN - James, D.F.C. Jim to all his family and friends, on 15th December in Hampstead. For funeral arrangements phone Leverton & Sons (0171) 586-4221.

HILARY - On 11th December 1995, peacefully, Richard "Dick" Mountenay Hilary, M.B.E. T.D. Dear husband of the late Rosemary Hilary and greatly loved father of Jennifer and Jephson, grandfather to Gayle, Richard and Andrew and father-in-law to Barbara. Funeral Service at Newtown Parish Church, Newtown, near Newbury, Berkshire, on Tuesday 19th December at 10.30 am. Flowers to Turner Brothers, 15 Hampton Road, Newbury, Berkshire or donations in Dick's name to the charity of your choice.

HILLYAR - Charles William, formerly of Naivasha and Mombasa, Kenya, died peacefully on December 12th aged 90 in Knysna, South Africa.

DEATHS

KEIG - On 14th December 1995 peacefully in his home at Christow, Devon, Norman aged 61 years, dearest husband of Pat, loving father, stepfather, brother and grandad. Funeral Service at Christow Church on Wednesday 20th December at 10 am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for The Exeter and District Hospice may be sent to Le-Roy Funeral Services, 10 Alphington Road, Exeter.

METCALFE - Denis Bernard on 13th December aged 73, beloved husband of Ruth Helen. Leaves eleven children and twenty eight grandchildren. Requiem Mass on Wednesday 20th December 12.30 pm at St Anne's R.C. Church, Chertsey, Surrey. Flowers or donations if desired for The British Heart Foundation c/o Bond & Son, 36 Eastworth Road, Chertsey, Surrey.

RUSBRIDGER - George Oliver on 14th December 1995, peacefully at home, aged 87. Father of James and Amelia. Service Thursday 21st December, Tangmere Church at 12.15 pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations, if wished, to St Wilfrid's Hospice, Chichester. All enquiries to Edward White & Son, 5 South Pallant, Chichester (01243) 782136.

SELBY - On Thursday 14th December 1995 passed away at The Bath Clinic, Bath, Elma Gertrude 'Judy' aged 83 years, widow of the late Sir Kenneth Selby Kt.Bach. Dearest mother of David and Stephen and grandmother of Belinda, Timothy, William and Edward. Funeral Service at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath, on Thursday December 21st at 2.40 pm. No flowers please, donations if desired for The Shelagh McBrien Coronary Care Unit, R.U.H. Bath, to G. Mannings and Sons Ltd., Oxford House, North Road, Combe Down, Bath BA2 5HW.

DEATHS

SHANKLAND - Dugald Cowan, beloved husband of Peggy and loving stepfather of Martin and Michael Mander. Died peacefully at home December 14th aged 93. Funeral at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on Friday December 22nd at 2.30 pm. No flowers please but donations if wished to The Princess Alice Hospice, Esher.

SHARPLES - Margaret (née Field-Hyde) LRAM, ARCM, died peacefully on December 10th 1995 aged 90 at The Grange, Goring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. Formerly of Dulas Court and Cambridge. Thanksgiving Service at St Thomas Church, Goring-on-Thames at 2.30 pm on Tuesday December 19th. No flowers please. Enquiries to Barkers Funeral Directors, 40 Wantage Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire. Tel: (01235) 510035.

TIPPER - Constance Fligg, at Penrith Hospital on 14th December. Aged 101 years. Dearly loved wife of the late George Howlett Tipper and late of the Department of Engineering, Cambridge University. Funeral Service at St Cuthbert's Church, Edenhall on Tuesday 19th December at 2 pm followed by private cremation. If desired, donations in memory of Constance may be made to St Cuthbert's Church c/o Walker's Funeral Directors, Tynefield House, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 8HY.

TRENT - Dr. J.L. (Joe) beloved and loving husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, brother and uncle. He is already deeply missed by his family, many friends and former patients. May God rest his dear soul.

TURNER - Rev. Canon Professor H.E.W., aged 88, on December 14th 1995, after a short illness. Funeral at St Catherine's Eskdale, at 12 noon on Tuesday 19th December 1995. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to St John's College, Durham, c/o W. Hogg & Son, High House, Holbrook, Cumbria.

DEATHS

WALLIS - On December 12th peacefully at Castle Hill House, Bodmin, Cornwall, Miriam Gwyneth Wallis M.B.E., much loved aunt of Gillian, Shirley and Thurstan, Felicity and James. Great-aunt of Karen and Richard, Christopher, Brian and Jenny. Memorial Service at Lewes will be announced later. Donations if desired to Age Concern c/o Angus L. MacKinnon Funeral Directors, Pound Lane, Bodmin, PL31 2BT.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

ALEXANDER - Neil Brough on 17th December 1994. Beloved husband, father, and brother of Miranda, Kate, Emma, James, and Bob.

BETTS - Lt. Col. Frank Betts MBE, Coldstream Guards, 16th December 1985. Miss you everyday, love you always. Jane.

COWARD - Sir Noel. Remembered with love on his birthday. Graham and Joan.

HOLMES - John. Died 17th December 1985. Loved son of Geo and Marie.

MELLALIEU - Yvonne aged 18. Our adored and only daughter tragically taken from us December 16th 1980.

PHILLIPS - Alfred 'Al' December 16th 1989. My beloved husband, you live forever in my heart and the love that I have is yours. Val.

PIGGOTT - Charles Antony Piggott M.A., Ph.D. Remembered, a brilliant and gifted young man: Kelvinside Academy, Edinburgh University, The City of London.

PIGGOTT - Dr Charles Antony Piggott. Love unchanging. Marjorie, Reginald and Mary-Anne.

SANGSTER - Vernon. On December 17th 1986, my very dearly loved husband. Treasured memories and always so sadly missed. Peggie and Family.

SAYERS - Dorothy L. 17 December 1957. Woman of Letters. Dorothy L. Sayers Society. Hurstpierpoint. BN6 9JY.

WATTS - Joan. Always and especially loved. Avery.

BIRTHDAYS

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EMMA-JANE Harper. Congratulations and love on your 21st Birthday. Mother and Geoffrey.

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OBITUARIES

SIR DENIS DOBSON

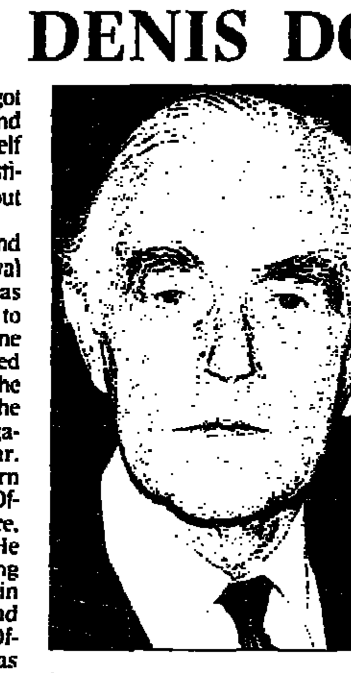
Sir Denis Dobson, KCB, OBE, QC, Clerk to the Crown in Chancery and Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor, 1968-77, died yesterday aged 87. He was born on October 17, 1908.

DENIS DOBSON was a fine lawyer and a first-class draftsman. But he was, above all, a man of strong opinion and personality, who left a deep conservative imprint on the Lord Chancellor's Department. He possessed considerable skills, including a mastery of English, which he wrote fast in a very attractive hand: he had a particular dislike of any form of sloppiness in expression. He took a direct interest in almost every aspect of the department's work.

Denis William Dobson was the son of William Gordon Dobson of Newcastle upon Tyne. He was educated at Charterhouse and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took a first in Part I of the Law Tripos and in the LLB examination before being articled to a firm of solicitors in his home city of Newcastle. He was admitted a solicitor in 1933. After three years he moved to London and joined a firm in the City, but it was not a success and, after what he later described as a "mutually disenchanting year," he joined Lewin, Gregory, Torr, Durnford & Co, a firm of parliamentary agents, became a partner, and stayed with them until the war. He was later to make extensive use of the experience he got there of parliamentary agency and Private Bill legislation. As he himself later commented, very characteristically, it taught him a good deal about bad drafting.

With the coming of the Second World War, Dobson joined the Royal Air Force in 1940 and went overseas in January 1942, being posted to Singapore. It was his good fortune that enemy action in the Atlantic led to his ship being diverted, so that he escaped being imprisoned by the Japanese when they captured Singapore in February of that year. Instead, he served in the Western Desert as Administrative Plans Officer with the Desert Air Force, operating with the 8th Army. He stayed there for three years, serving through El Alamein and later in Malta and Italy. By that time he had become Senior Personnel Staff Officer to the Desert Air Force. He was then unlucky enough to contract tuberculosis, which made it impossible for him to join the legal branch of the Foreign Office after he was demobilised, as he had hoped to do.

Instead, he was posted to the Statutory Publications Office, with a view to becoming the editor. This experience was also to be valuable to him later on, but he was glad when Sir Thomas Barnes, the Treasury Solicitor, recognised his skills and introduced him to Sir Albert Napier, the head of the Lord Chancellor's Office, which he joined in April 1947.



From the start, Dobson showed immense drive and energy, almost dominating the office. At that time it contained only a very small number of lawyers, and he proved to be one of the ablest. His interests lay most strongly in the field of law reform and legislation, and he made the mastery of the latter, both its procedure and its content, very much his own. His earlier experience, first with parliamentary agents, and later with the Statutory Publications Office, gave him the confidence to challenge the parliamentary counsel who were responsible for the drafting of government legislation. This he frequently did, and as both he and they were forthright, knowledgeable and exceptionally capable, some of the exchanges between them passed into Whitehall legend.

Quite early on in his career in the department, it became clear to his Permanent Secretary, Sir Albert Napier, that Dobson's ability was such that he would be a very strong candidate to succeed to that position himself in due course. As the law then stood Dobson, not being a member of the Bar, was not qualified for appointment. Napier advised him to change over and this he did, being voluntarily struck off the Roll of Solicitors and being called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1951. On Napier's retirement in 1954 he became Deputy Clerk of the Crown in Chancery and Assistant Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor, and served in that capacity until the Permanent Secretary, Sir George Coldstream, retired and Dobson succeeded him.

In 1969 Dobson had to preside over a major upheaval in the court system. This was caused by the decision of the Labour Government, which was later endorsed by the Conservative administration that succeeded it, to implement the report of the Royal Commission on Assizes and Quarter Sessions under the chairmanship of Lord Beeching, previously much better known for his radical surgery on the railway system. Dobson needed a good deal of convincing of the merits of the far-reaching reforms that Lord Beeching regarded as essential. He took a line-by-line interest in the legislation that implemented the report, the Bill that became the Courts Act 1971, and in much of the minutiae of the very extensive administrative changes that were also needed.

Dobson's strengths were great natural ability, enormous energy and a real feeling for the law. His weaknesses were a strong dislike of delegation, too-close an absorption in detail being handled by others, and a choleric temperament that, with considerable humility, he privately admitted on occasion to close friends was a real drawback, and one whose possession he greatly regretted. He left a stamp on every part of his department, and on quite a lot of the law — Lord Gardiner, Lord Hailsham and Lord Elwyn-Jones might well have been more adventurous Lords Chancellor but for his influence.

Dobson was appointed OBE in 1945 and CB in 1959. Ten years later he was advanced from CB to KCB. He took silk in 1971.

He was twice married, first, in 1934, to Thelma, daughter of Charles Swinburne of Newcastle upon Tyne, his marriage to her being dissolved in 1947: and, secondly, in 1948, to Mary Elizabeth, daughter of J. A. Allen of Haywards Heath. She survives him, together with a son and a daughter by his first marriage, and two sons and a daughter from his second.

VISCOUNT BOYNE

Viscount Boyne, KCVO, Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, died from a heart attack in London on December 14 aged 64. He was born on December 10, 1931.

LORD BOYNE'S life was one of patrician predictability. He was a countryman, who took his local responsibilities as a JP and as a Deputy Lieutenant as seriously as he did the management of the thousands of acres (much of it woodland) which he had inherited in Shropshire. He was modern in his approach to farming, using all the new technology which became available to him.

His life had been tinged with an undue share of sadness in his early days. His mother Joy Verney (then pregnant) died suddenly at the age of 30 in 1938 when he was six, his father was killed in action in Flanders in 1940, and he succeeded his grandfather, the 9th Viscount, in 1942, when he was only ten. His sister, Charmian, had been killed when she fell 60ft down a lift shaft at the age of four in 1937 (while her father was in attendance on the Princess Royal at the Coronation of George VI). Another uncle was killed in Africa in 1943.

Gustavus Michael George Hamilton-Russell — known as Michael — was the scion of a distinguished family. The Hamiltons descended from a brother of the 1st Earl of Abercorn. They became Irish viscounts in 1717, the 1st Viscount being a distinguished military commander in the service of William III. (His horse was shot under him at the Battle of the Boyne, when he was defending Coleraine and Derry in the Protestant cause.) In 1866 the 7th Viscount was created Baron Brancepath (named after their castle in Durham) in the peerage of the United Kingdom, under which title the 10th Viscount sat in the House of Lords.

Boyne's family was closely connected with the court. His grandfather, Sir Harry Verney, was Private Secretary to Queen Mary for many years and also Treasurer to King George V (who was Boyne's godfather). Boyne was a great-nephew of the 6th Earl of Harewood and the Princess Royal.

Boyne inherited nearly £300,000 from his father and was raised at the family seat, Burwarton House in Shropshire. This was originally built by the Victorian architect Anthony Slavin in 1876-77, a sprawling mansion in the Italianate style. The house was set in some 8,000 acres and noted for its magnificent library and the particularly fine planting in the park. After the death of his parents, he was brought up mostly by his paternal grandmother.

He moved via Eton, Sandhurst and service in the Grenadier Guards to the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, a training which served him well in his management of the land at Burwarton. In 1953 he gave a large party

there for his coming of age, and three years later Boyne married his cousin, Rosemary Stucley, daughter of Sir Denis Stucley, 5th Bt. The Princess Royal attended the wedding at St Margaret's, Westminster.

Soon after his marriage, Boyne instigated a huge sale at Burwarton. There was a four-day auction in which a Jacobean oak staircase was sold for £65, along with picture rails, slates, bedroom furnishings, copperware and other treasures, raising £22,000 in four days. At this sale Boyne sold a desk, "locked and with keys missing". When the new owner opened the drawer she discovered 14 letters written by Alfred Lord Tennyson to his aunt over a period of 42 years. Boyne was eventually able to buy the letters back.

His life, mainly at Burwarton, was punctuated by a few newsworthy events. Early in their marriage he and his wife undertook a 2,000-mile motoring tour of America, urging the Americans to buy British. In 1967 Boyne sued the Ministry of Defence over 196 acres previously owned by the 9th Viscount, which were in danger of being used as an ammunition dump by American Forces.

There were also responsibilities on boards and committees. From 1976 to 1990 Boyne was a director of the National Westminster Bank and chairman of the West Midland and Wales Regional Board. Fellow board members found that they had a shrewd businessman as a colleague. He was also deputy chairman of Telford Development Corporation, 1976-82, and chairman of Harper Adams Agricultural College and Ludlow Race Club.

But Boyne was most at home in the country. He fished and, like his wife, he was an excellent shot although, unlike her, he could never be induced to like riding. But he loved motor racing, and owned several E-type Jaguars. He drove in the Monte Carlo Rally and at Goodwood. He became a Deputy Lieutenant of his county in 1965 and then Lord Lieutenant from 1994. He also served the Queen as a Lord-in-Waiting from 1981, being appointed KCVO in June of this year.

He is survived by his wife, one son, Gustavus (Tavie), who now succeeds to the viscountcy, and two daughters. Another daughter predeceased him.

MAJOR MALCOLM MUNTHE

Major Malcolm Munthe, MC, wartime SOE agent and writer, died on November 25 aged 85. He was born on January 30, 1910.

OF ALL the perils in which Malcolm Munthe's service in the wartime Special Operations Executive involved him, the story of his escape from German-occupied Norway is perhaps the most extraordinary. How he came to be in Norway in the first place is in itself interesting. While in the winter of 1939-40 the British Government was havering over how it might best help Finland in the face of the unprovoked Soviet onslaught, the nascent SOE selected a number of men — Munthe among them — to go to Norway and make sure that shipments of arms made their way safely from Norwegian ports to the Finnish frontier.

When the brave, but inevitably short-lived, Finnish resistance came to an end in March 1940, Munthe was sent as liaison officer to the Norwegian Army, which was soon to experience an attack from Germany. After the Germans invaded Norway in April 1940, Munthe took part in organising what resistance could be offered to an enemy superior in equipment and numbers. After the British had withdrawn and the German grip on the country was secured, Munthe made several attempts to escape, on each occasion being foiled by accidents that would have persuaded all but the stoutest of hearts to give up and embrace German captivity.

On one occasion a motorboat in which he was embarking for Scotland caught fire. A second attempt came when a party for whom he had organised an escape could not take him because he had been wounded in the leg and would have excited the suspicion of a German checkpoint through which the party had to pass on their way to the coast. Eventually he managed to get to Bergen where he sought out the American consulate. But although he had a friendly reception and was given some money, there was no salvation for him there either. The advice given was that it would be more painless to surrender than to continue to risk his life on the run.

Realising that an escape to Britain direct was now out of the question, Munthe resolved on trying to get to neutral Sweden and, after obtaining a Swedish passport, was taken on as a cabin boy by a Swedish steamer. This was not risky since his Swedish was fluent, but on the morning the ship was to sail the passage had to be cancelled because the RAF had laid a minefield outside Bergen harbour.

It was now clear that the journey to the frontier would have to be made on foot. Halfway there, he was apprehended by a Wehrmacht sentry, but the man, being an Austrian who lacked wholehearted commitment to Hitler's adventurism, relented and let him go on.

Finally, with the haven of the Swedish frontier tantalisingly in sight, Munthe was made to stand for some hours in the river which marked the border while Swedish officials tried to decide whether to allow entry to this dishevelled-looking creature — and while German patrols searched for him on the other bank. In June 1940 he was allowed across and made his way to Stockholm, where he was recruited by the SOE to direct sabotage operations in Norway. But the Swedes did not take kindly to these activities and eventually, in July 1941, he was told to leave. He made his way back to England to begin a new phase of his SOE career.

Malcolm Grane Ludovic Munthe was the son of Axel Munthe, a fashionable Swedish doctor who practised in Paris and Rome and was for many years physician to Queen Victoria of Sweden: in Rome he lived with his family at Keats's house on the Piazza di Spagna and later built his villa on Capri, which he made famous in his book *The Story of San Michele*. Malcolm was brought up, first in Rome and later at Southside House on the edge of Wimbledon Common. His holidays were spent in Italy and at Biarritz where the family of his English mother, Hilda Pennington-Mellor, had a large property.

Munthe was educated at King's College, Wimbledon, and LSE, where his social conscience led him to found a club for displaced young men. Before the Second World War he worked for Sir Neill Malcolm on the Refugees' Commission, himself housing a number of Spanish refugees in the Biarritz family home.

When war came, the military authorities were quick to spot that Munthe could be more usefully employed than as cannon fodder, and he was claimed by the military intelligence section which was later to spawn the SOE.

After his Scandinavian adventures he was sent to Sicily where, disguised as an ageing *nonna* (grandma) in what masqueraded as a family fleeing from the battlefront, he in fact conducted sabotage operations behind German lines. Subsequently he was involved in operations on Capri where he was able to prevent Benedetto Croce from falling into the hands of the retreating Germans as a hostage. Clearing the remaining Germans out of the island was a challenge particularly congenial to him, given his father's association with Capri.

He was severely wounded in the head in the battle for the Anzio beachhead, and his injuries effectively ended his war. In the 1945 general election he stood as Conservative candidate for East Ham South, a quixotic gesture at any time, but a peculiarly hopeless one in the circumstances of the Labour landslide.

Thereafter he spent his life running the various family properties in Sweden, Italy and England, travelling tirelessly to supervise their upkeep. A particular concern was Southside House which had been damaged during the war. It was partially restored with a grant from the War Damage Commission on condition that it was opened to the public. But it required continual effort and ingenuity to manage it in a manner which made it viable. Munthe himself lived in one of the small apartments which had been created in the bottom part of the house, showing visitors round but never telling them who he was.

His memoir *Sweet is War* (1954) was a reticent and modest account of adventures that could have made a best-selling thriller, and had earned him an MC.

He married, in 1945, Ann, daughter of the 2nd Lord Rea. She and one of their sons predeceased him, and he leaves a son and a daughter.

FRANCIS D'ABREU

Francis d'Abreu, surgeon, died on November 16 aged 91. He was born on October 1, 1904.

A SKILFUL and dedicated thoracic surgeon, Francis Arthur d'Abreu, known as Frank, gave long and distinguished service at Westminster Hospital and Medical School. Precise but swift — the sort of surgeon whom anaesthetists value — his greatest asset in the operating theatre, as a colleague remarked, were his "green fingers". He was like a gardener whose cuttings always take and, though not always operating quite by the textbook, his clinical judgment was sure and his surgical skills well honed. He served as an examiner to the Universities of Cambridge and London.

For 23 years, 1946-69, d'Abreu worked at Westminster Hospital, eventually becoming a consultant. However, as a committed Roman Catholic, he also gave generously of his expertise to the little hospital of St John and St Elizabeth in St John's Wood and was an honorary surgeon there from 1950 onwards. At the time of his appointment, this was an independent charitable hospital, run by the Sisters of Mercy and associated since its foundation with the Military Order of Malta, of which d'Abreu was later to become a knight. Although it took in patients of all faiths, it had a particular commitment to the clergy of the archdiocese of Westminster.

D'Abreu's other great interest was sport. At Stonyhurst he went to school, he was captain of both cricket and rugby. Studying medicine at Birmingham University, he pursued both sports enthusiastically. Later in his professional career he became a member of the Institute of Sports Medicine, promoting interest in sports injuries. He was also surgeon to the Royal Jockey Club, treating patients such as Lester Piggott and Greville Starkey.

He himself continued playing rugby until well into his sixties. He had an almost obsessional interest in the game. At inter-hospital matches, students would be surprised to see the venerable figure of the consultant racing up and down the touchline, alternately bellowing encouragement and abuse. After a match they would often meet him in the pub, where they would enjoy his puckish sense of humour and challenge him to perform the feat for which he was well known: "Sir", they would say, "is it true that you can stand on your head and drink a glass of beer?"

In 1945 d'Abreu married Margaret Ann Bowes-Lyon, a cousin of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. He is survived by her and their son and daughter. His other daughter died earlier this year.

ON THIS DAY

December 16, 1878

When diphtheria struck the family of Princess Alice, Queen Victoria's second daughter, she nursed them as she had nursed her father Albert, the Prince Consort; while comforting a son after the death of a sister, Princess Alice embraced him, caught the infection and died 17 years to the day after the death of her father. She was 35.

LONDON, MONDAY DECEMBER 16 1878.

The whole nation feels genuine sorrow for the death of the Princess ALICE, the name by which the Grand Duchess of HESSE DARMSTADT will ever be best known to the English people. For some days before her end the worst fears had been spread by the bulletins from the Ducal Court. Before her illness, it was known, she had been weakened by the devotion with which she had watched beside her husband and five of her children who had all been stricken down by the mysterious and terrible disease which in recent years has extinguished the light of so many English homes. She was mourning for the death of one of those children, the Princess MARY, who died only a month ago. All the other sufferers were on the way to health, when it was announced that the bereaved mother herself had been attacked by the malady from which they were recovering. Her watching over them had sown in her the seeds of a dangerous form of diphtheria. The sending of the QUEEN's own physician to Darmstadt and the gloom of his messages were a preparation for the worst; and the general sorrow drew little sharpness from surprise when it was announced that on Saturday morning the PRINCESS had passed away. The solemnity of the event found a deeper shadow in the day on which it happened. The 14th of December must ever bring back the saddest of memories to the Royal Family. On that day, seventeen years ago, the PRINCE CONSORT died, after he had been nursed by the Princess ALICE with a tenderness which touched the deepest emotions of every English family. He had been devotedly attached to her, and the strength and simplicity of her affection had made her the best of nurses in the hour of death as she had been the best of daughters in the brighter hours of life. It was understood that she had been the chief comfort of her mother, the QUEEN, when that terrible calamity cast a life-long shadow on a home which yielded to none in the fervour of affection and the virtues of domesticity. Ten years later the illness of the Prince of WALES threatened the Royal Family with another great sorrow, and the nation with a political calamity which would have recalled the death of the Princess CHARLOTTE. Again did the Princess ALICE take her place by the side of the sufferer, nursing him with the same care as she had bestowed on her father. Again did the 14th of December come round, and with it came a curious feeling of apprehension that the day would be signalized by another affliction. But it brought life, not death. It has come round once more, and this time it has taken away the illustrious lady who was the chief solace of her English home in the darkest hours of its sorrow, and whose latest days of health were passed in the relief of suffering.

The PRINCESS has died a victim of the warmth of her affections and her sense of duty. Sad as it is that she should have been cut off in the very flower of life, the Royal Family will draw a consolation from the fact that it was her very virtues which wasted her strength unto the feebleness of death. That memory will help, also, to give the PRINCESS an endearing place in the affections of the English people...

PERSONAL COLUMN

HEALTH & BEAUTY

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PUBLIC NOTICES

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE M.J. McNiff and J.P. Curran Co Ltd of Seawall Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff CF2 2TH is applying to replace without change a licence to use Seawall Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff CF2 2TH as an operating centre for 30 goods vehicles and to use Chase Commercials Ltd, Llantwit Chase, Upper Church Village, nr Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan as an operating centre for 35 goods vehicles and 7 trailers. Owners and occupiers of land (including buildings) in the vicinity of the operating centre or centres, who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land will be prejudicially affected, may make written representations to the Licensing Authority at South Wales Traffic Area, Caradog House, 1-6 St Andrews Place, Cardiff CF1 3PW within 21 days following the publication of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
KHALATBARI, POPLI, Flat 11, 23 Lowndes Square, London SW1X 9HD, died 6th February, 1995; particulars of claims to Coudert Brothers, Solicitors, 20 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7JP (Ref: PAB/TJB), before 29 February 1996.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

30 Somethings required for Xmas and New Year sailing binge in Carribean, crewed. Catered, informal and fun. For information Tel: 01984 632516

TICKETS FOR SALE

TICKETS FOR SALE
When responding to advertisements readers are advised to establish the face value and full details of tickets before entering into any commitment. Most sports tickets are subject to strict re-sale and transfer rules.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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We honour those who gave their lives for our country. But what of those who shared the same horrors and survived... their minds shattered.
The Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society cares for men and women from the services with varying degrees of mental illness in our convalescent homes and veterans home.
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Court and Social Page
Over the Christmas period the following deadline will apply:-
Notices to appear on Friday, December 22nd; Saturday, December 23rd; Tuesday, December 26th; Wednesday, December 27th should be received in writing by 5pm on Wednesday, December 20th.
ALL NOTICES ARE ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION
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Please include in all correspondence: a signature of either one of the parties concerned or a parent, a daytime and your home telephone number and address
Advertisements for the Court Page must be submitted two working days prior to publication and are accepted subject to confirmation.

NEWS

A coin by any name not too French

■ European leaders agreed to call their proposed single currency the Euro — a name nobody really liked but whose main quality was that it was not "too French" for the Germans.

John Major — who declared that making the decision at all was like naming the baby before the pregnancy — argued in vain for something with more "history", like the crown or the florin. France wanted the ecu; Benelux bid for the florin............Page 1

Fresh rail privatisation humiliation

■ The Government suffered a fresh humiliation over rail privatisation when the Court of Appeal ruled that five of the first seven passenger franchises offered to private train operators were being sold unlawfully..Page 1

Branson sues GTech

Richard Branson began legal proceedings for libel against the company he accused of trying to bribe *him to stay out of the race to run* the National Lottery .... Page 1

Oxford don jailed

A Oxford academic who stole a first edition of Isaac Newton's *Principia Mathematica* and other rare books from college libraries was jailed for two years Pages 1, 5

Peace mission

George Mitchell, the chairman of the international commission on terrorist arms in Northern Ireland, spoke about the enormity of the task he faces................Page 2

Ecstasy death

A boy aged 15 died after taking Ecstasy tablets hidden by his mother's boyfriend .... Page 3

Takeover frenzy

A frenzy of takeover speculation about the ITV companies was unleashed .... Page 4

Wonder of selling

The scent of mulled wine wafting around 20 Woolworths stores this Christmas may give the public an early whiff of the next retailing revolution .... Page 9

French get moving

The French public transport system creaked back to life as the most damaging strike since 1968 appeared to be nearing an end .... Page 11

China 'conspiracy'

China's second most famous dissident, Wang Dan, has been named as a co-conspirator with Wei Jingsheng, who was sentenced to 14 years in jail earlier this week.................................*Page 12*

Whitewater battle

The Senate Whitewater Committee voted to take the White House to court after President Clinton's advisers failed to comply with a deadline for surrendering subpoenaed documents...............Page 13

A star is born from Bosnia

■ A young refugee from Bosnia last night relived the flight from her home — in a starring role in the BBC's *Dangerfield* drama series. Elvira Supuk, 9, is looking forward to a promising career. "I hope I can do more acting," she said .... Page 1

MARTIN BEDDALL

The first pantomime to be staged at the National Gallery, *Very Big Thing*, was previewed yesterday

OPINION

Queen Eutopia: Europe's blend of common culture and political diversity needs delicate balances .... Page 19

Not on schedule: The Government must now show that its Public Service Requirement will not undercut the rail service................ Page 19

Bells and smells: The smell-by date of all things Christmassy falls straight after the 25th. Orders should flock in for a "clean smell" to exorcise the faded aromas of another Christmas past......... Page 19

PAPERS

Every major political party has a stake in the redistribution of wealth going on in Russia. The election is really about who will control it

— *The New York Times*

COLUMNS

Magnus Linklater: I doubt if the average drinker is in need of government guidelines; the serious drinker is unlikely to pay much attention.. Page 18

William Johnson: President Clinton's admission that his emotional involvement with Irish issues was launched at Oxford will doubtless produce a certain wryness in government circles... Page 18

OBITUARIES

Sir Denis Dobson, former Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor; **Major Malcolm Munthe,** SOE agent and writer ..... Page 21

LETTERS

Refugees seeking asylum: implications of a single European currency .... Page 19

BUSINESS

Trafalgar: Previous management was blamed for the QE2 group's annual losses of £321 million .... Page 23

Coal: Richard Budge was cast as Father Christmas after promising a pay and perks package .... Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 29.0 points to close at 3642.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 83.0 after a rise from DM2.2197 to DM2.2209. Against the dollar the pound held steady at $1.5393..................... Page 26

ARTS

Orchestral wars: The London orchestras don't need managers, they need miracle-workers, says Richard Morrison .... Page 15

[illegible]

Cricket: England ended the second day of the third Test in Durban 102 runs behind with five wickets in hand. South Africa's last-wicket pair, Pollock and Donald, shared a partnership of 72 ......Page 44

Football: Uefa will continue the fight against the European Court's ruling that the transfer system and restrictions on foreign players are illegal ....Page 44

Rugby union: Western Samoa's first match at Twickenham will help England to celebrate the stadium's official reopening ....Page 43

CARS

Mini motoring: Forget pedals, today's children can virtually drive the genuine article.....................Pages 1, 3

MAGAZINE

It's a mad, mad world: In an exotic location, the contestants for Miss World 1995 are lining up......................Page 8

Puppy love: The remaking of *101 Dalmations* has led to a very British dog fight Page 34

Fashion: Iain R. Webb meets Giorgio Armani ....Page 50

WEEKEND

A little peace on Earth: The nativity play at All Children's Integrated School, Newcastle, Co Down, put Ulster's hard men to shame Pages 1, 3

Roaming in Wyoming: What to do when you get to Rock Springs ...Travel, pages 14-17

Carol services: Celebrate Christmas in song ... Page 19

10 15

The weekly magazine for young Times readers

Bruno v Jacko: Meet Frank Bruno and other contenders for Christmas No 1 ....Page 6

Win: A trip to Disney's Magic Kingdom in Orlando for you and your family ....Page 3

Recommended: Games, music, books, films..Page 10

VISION

Your complete guide to what's going to be on television and radio over Christmas and New Year, in a special, 56-page double issue

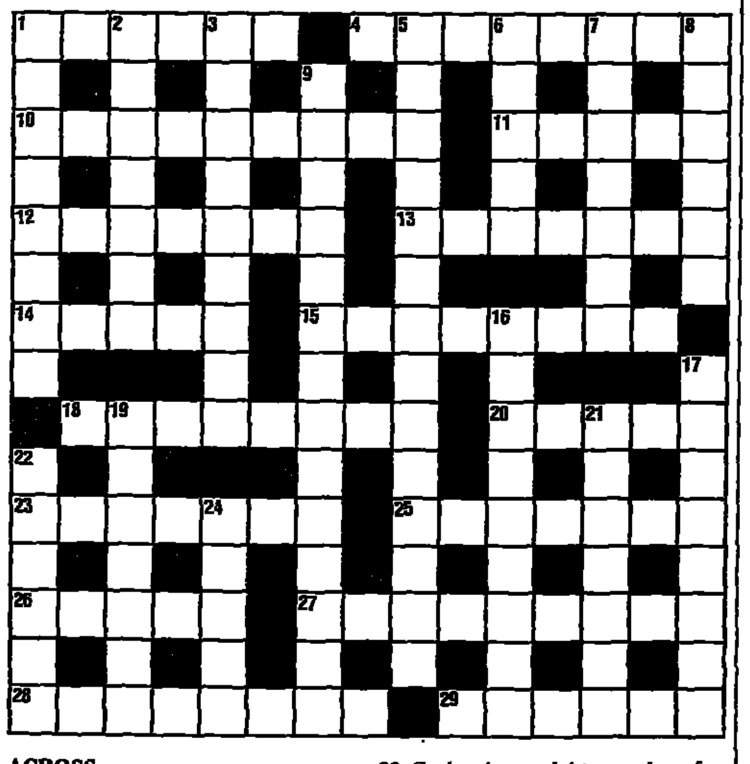
PLUS: on the centre pages, David Robinson's pick of the films on television this holiday season

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,040

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



ACROSS

1 Aimlessly wander and feed (6).
4 Cast put in extra line and produced a laugh (8).
10 Mostly genuine foreign currency to do with insurance premiums (9).
11 Warning light about doctors needing backing (5).
12 Fruit, very large, but out of reach (7).
13 Producer of material for garden aprons (3-4).
14 More than one spoke from the middle of the circle (5).
15 On reflection, a jolly friend, as a rule (8).
18 Study origin of cosmology in Indian's belief (8).
20 Slab made of slate, perhaps (5).
23 Relaxing time with flower arrangement? Definitely (7).
25 Examine, say, depression — it can do multiple harm (7).
26 Taunt about skinhead's curl (5).
27 Tell tales (for example, about test groundsman) for a sovereign, perhaps (5,4).
28 Large increase in payment for tall stories (as written by some) (4-4).
29 Cook about right number for spread (6).

DOWN

1 Naval directors ashore, say? (8).
2 Youth thus bound to be adventurous (7).
3 Successful student having to work hard for unsentimental statistician (9).
5 Going flat out? He will, for the right to imbibe special ale (4,3,7).
6 Origin of Catholic archbishop's ring (5).
7 The sort of studies Braille has transformed (7).
8 Where the stout Spaniard reached his peak (6).
9 Tingling sensation found in a housewife (4,3,7).
16 Abstemious sailor getting intoxicated out of can (9).
17 Scholars appear to assume this animal's extinct (8).
19 King, being ill, is using abusive language (7).
21 Carefully inspects foreign money, having awful sight (7).
22 Get hold of some eggs (6).
24 Not qualified to speak (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,034

Y	E	L	L	O	W		G	A	O	L	B	I	R	D
E		E		N		O		L		O		R		I
A	T	A	G	L	A	N	C	E		W	H	A	R	F
R		R		O		O		X		E		N		F
L	I	N	C	O	L	N		A	I	R	L	I	N	E
I		E		K		E		N				A		R
N	U	R	S	E		S	E	D	I	M	E	N	T	
G				R		B		R		I				T
	G	R	A	S	M	E	R	E		D	R	A	K	E
D		E				A		D		W		B		E
E	X	C	L	A	I	M		U	N	I	C	O	R	N
W		O		C		E		M		N		L		A
L	E	V	E	R		N	E	A	R	T	H	I	N	G
A		E		I		D		S		E		S		E
P	A	R	A	D	I	S	E		A	R	C	H	E	R

Solution to Puzzle No 20,039

X	A	N	T	H	I	P	P	E		C	O	M	I	C
E		O		A		U		R		H		I		O
N	A	T	U	R	A	L		A	M	A	L	G	A	M
O		A		O		L				S		R		E
N	O	B	E	L		S	T	O	N	E	W	A	L	L
		L		I		T		V				N		I
W	O	E		N	E	R	V	E	C	E	N	T	R	E
I				E		I		R		L				S
T	R	E	A	S	O	N	A	B	L	E		V	E	T
H		N				G		A		C		I		
D	I	S	M	I	S	S	A	L		T	U	L	I	P
R		N		V				A		O		L		I
A	B	A	L	O	N	E		N	A	R	R	A	T	E
W		R		R		L		C		A		I		C
N	E	E	D	Y		F	R	E	E	L	A	N	C	E

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: M G Redfern, Anstruther, Fife; H M Robinson, Hoylake, Wirral; J M Robins, Clifton, Bristol; D Harvey, East Molesey, Surrey; L Carr, Loughton, Essex.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

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Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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Area within M25	731
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M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
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Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
8 00 am	3.52 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
12.28 pm	12.48 am

New Moon December 22

London 3.52 pm to 8.01 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8 10 am
Edinburgh 3.38 pm to 8.39 am
Manchester 3.49 pm to 8.20 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.16 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
8 01 am	3 52 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
12.56 pm	1.59 am

New Moon December 22

London 3 52 pm to 8.02 am
Bristol 4 02 pm to 8.11 am
Edinburgh 3.38 pm to 8.40 am
Manchester 3 50 pm to 8.21 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.17 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7:11	6 15	8:06	6.21
Aberdeen	7:36	3.54	7:53	3 68
Avonmouth	0:18	10.22	0:45	10.32
Belfast	4:55	2.91	5:20	3.19
Cardiff	0:12	9.33	0:48	9.55
Devonport	11:31	4.59	–	–
Dover	4:48	5 57	5:18	5.42
Dublin	6:07	3 33	6:28	3 49
Falmouth	11 17	4.21	–	–
Glasgow	6:38	3.76	6:50	4.21
Harwich	5:11	3 43	6:00	3.40
Holyhead	4:27	4.50	4:47	4.67
Hull	–	–	0:26	5.93
Ilfracombe	–	–	0:05	7.36
King's Lynn	–	–	0:45	4 93
Leith	8:48	4.63	9.10	4.65
Liverpool	5:05	7.58	5:33	7 65
Lowestoft	2:55	2.30	4:44	2.12
Margate	5:44	4.09	6:43	4.00
Milford Haven	–	–	0:21	5 58
Newquay	11:29	5.28	–	–
Oban	11:43	3.26	–	–
Penzance	10:51	4.54	11.36	4.41
Portland	11:55	1.56	–	–
Portsmouth	5:12	4 12	5.30	3.90
Shoreham	4:51	5.08	5:21	4 92
Southampton	4.44	3 99	5:05	3.82
Swansea	–	–	0:28	7.49
Tees	10:06	4.30	10:25	4.46

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Orsay, off western Scotland, 8C (46F); lowest day max: Liscombe, Somerset, 0C (32F); highest rainfall: Guernsey, 0.11in, highest sunshine: Hunstanton, Norfolk, 5.5hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** It will be mostly dry across England and Wales, with the best of any sunshine likely in the North West. Wintry showers will edge into the South West later on, followed by rain during the evening.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be largely dry. Western areas are expected to be bright with sunny spells. It will be cloudier elsewhere, with the odd spot of drizzle along exposed coasts but a few brighter spells as well.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands:** mainly dry, a few brighter spells. Wind east, fresh. Very cold in wind. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **E England, Central N, NE England, Borders:** mainly dry, some bright spells. Wind northeast or east, moderate. Very cold in wind. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **W Midlands, Wales, NW England, Lake District:** mainly dry. Sunny intervals. Cold in exposed areas. Wind east, fresh. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England:** cloudy, rain preceded by snow in evening. Wind east, strong. Very cold in wind. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** dry with sunny intervals. Wind east, moderate. Mild. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy, mainly dry. Wind northeast, light. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook:** staying cloudy in the South with outbreaks of rain. Remaining largely dry elsewhere.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

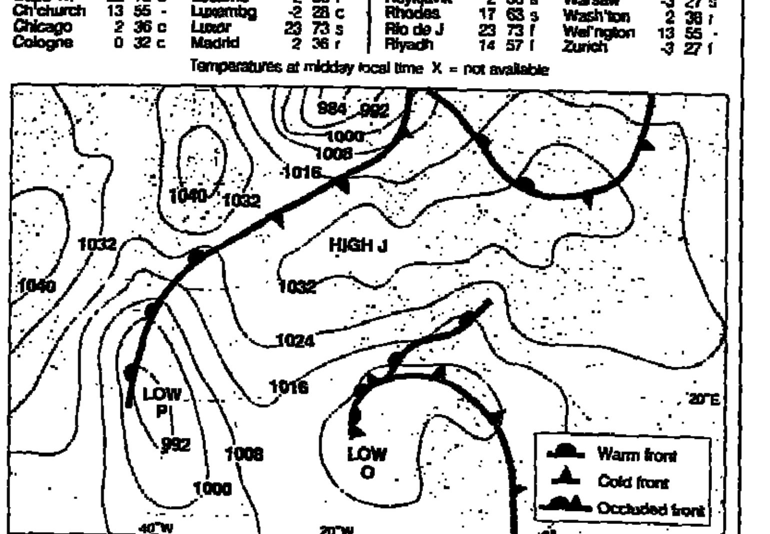
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.04	6	43	sh	Littlehmptn	-	-	3	37	du
Anglesey	5.1	-	6	43	s	Liverpool	0.9	0.01	6	43	b
Aspatria	0.3	-	6	43	sh	London	-	0.03	4	39	sn
Aviemore	-	-	4	39	du	Lowestoft	-	-	3	37	c
Belfast	1.9	-	6	43	c	Manchester	3.4	-	6	43	s
Birmingham	0.7	-	3	37	c	Margate	-	-	3	37	du
Bognor R	-	-	3	37	du	Minehead	-	0.03	3	37	sl
Bournem'th	-	0.01	2	36	sl	Morecambe	1.1	-	6	43	c
Bristol	-	-	3	37	sl	Newquay	1.1	-	4	39	c
Buxton	2.5	-	3	37	b	Norwich	-	-	3	37	c
Cardiff	-	-	3	37	sn	Nottingham	X				
Clacton	-	-	3	37	c	Oxford	-	0.02	2	36	sn
Cleethorpes	X					Penzance	1.4	-	5	41	du
Colwyn Bay	1.7	-	5	41	b	Prestatyn	X	-	6	43	s
Cromer	-	-	4	39	b	Ross-o-wye	-	-	3	37	c
Eastbourne	X					Salcombe	X				
Edinburgh	0.5	-	7	45	sh	Sandown	-	-	3	37	sl
Eskdalemuir	1.5	0.01	4	39	sh	Sauntn Snd	0.1	-	3	37	c
Exmouth	-	-	3	37	c	Scarboro'	-	-	6	43	c
Falmouth	0.2	-	5	41	c	Shanklin	-	-	3	37	sl
Fishguard	-	-	4	39	c	Shrewsbury	X				
Folkestone	-	-	2	36	c	Skegness	X				
Glasgow	1.2	0.01	7	45	sh	Southend	-	-	4	39	d
Guernsey	-	0.11	4	39	c	Southport	0.2	-	5	41	b
Hastings	-	-	3	37	c	Southsea	-	-	3	37	c
Hayling I.	-	-	3	37	d	St. Ives	X				
Herne Bay	-	-	3	37	du	Stornoway	0.4	-	7	45	c
Hove	-	-	3	37	c	Swanage	-	-	5	41	c
Hunstanton	5.5	-	5	41	s	Teignmouth	-	-	5	41	c
Ilfracombe	-	-	1	34	sl	Tenby	X				
Isle of Man	1.0	-	7	45	c	Tiree	3.5	-	6	43	s
Jersey	3.0	0.01	2	36	b	Torquay	-	-	5	41	c
Kinloss	-	0.02	5	41	r	Tynemouth	1.5	0.02	7	45	du
Leeds	0.2	0.01	5	41	sh	Ventnor	-	0.02	3	37	sl
Lerwick	X					West-s-mare	X				
Leuchars	-	0.09	7	45	r	Weymouth	-	-	3	37	c

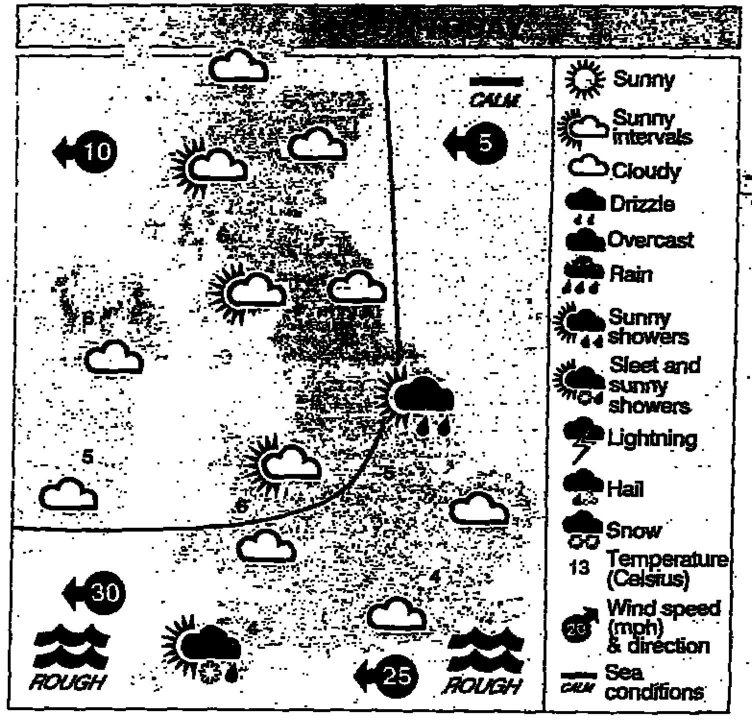
ABROAD

Ajaccio	16	61	f	Corfu	15	59	f	Majorca	16	61	f	Rome	17	63	f
Akrotiri	17	63	s	C'phagn	1	34	f	Malaga	15	59	r	S Fr'sco	11	52	s
Alex'dria	20	68	s	Dublin	5	41	c	Malta	18	64	s	S Paulo	20	68	c
Algiers	16	61	r	Faro	13	55	f	Melb'rne	20	68	s	Salzburg	-6	21	f
Amst'dm	-1	30	c	Florence	-	-	-0	Mexico C	19	66	s	Santiago	27	81	s
Athens	16	61	s	Frankfurt	1	34	c	Miami	27	81	f	Seoul	2	36	s
B Aires	26	79	s	Funchal	18	64	f	Milan	4	39	r	Sing'por	27	81	f
Bahrain	14	57	r	Geneva	-1	30	c	Montreal	-15	5	-	St'kholm	1	34	f
Bangkok	31	88	f	Gibraltar	18	64	r	Moscow	-6	21	sn	Strasb'rg	1	34	s
Barcelona	7	45	f	Helsinki	-2	28	c	Munich	-3	27	c	Sydney	24	75	s
Beirut	16	61	f	Hong K	21	70	f	N Delhi	20	68	s	Tangier	17	63	r
Belfast	6	43	c	Innsbrck	-1	30	f	N York	-1	30	c	Tel Aviv	X		
Belgrade	1	34	c	Istanbul	9	48	r	Nairobi	25	77	f	Tenerife	22	72	c
Berlin	-3	27	s	Jeddah	27	81	f	Naples	19	66	f	Tokyo	15	59	s
Bermuda	19	66	s	Jo'burg	21	70	f	Nice	9	48	f	Toronto	1	34	r
Biarritz	1	34	f	Karachi	28	82	s	Oslo	-1	30	s	Tunis	19	66	s
Borde'x	0	32	c	L Angels	16	61	s	Paris	0	32	c	Valencia	9	48	d
Brussels	0	32	c	L Palmas	21	70	c	Peking	2	36	s	Vanc'ver	7	45	r
Budapst	3	37	s	Le Tquet	1	34	f	Perth	23	73	c	Venice	5	41	r
Cairo	19	66	f	Lisbon	9	48	s	Prague	-3	27	c	Vienna	0	32	c
Cape Tn	22	72	s	Locarno	2	36	f	Reykjavik	2	36	s	Warsaw	-3	27	s
Ch'church	13	55	-	Luxembg	-2	28	c	Rhodes	17	63	s	Wash'ton	2	36	f
Chicago	2	36	c	Luxor	23	73	s	Rio de J	23	73	f	Wel'ngton	13	55	-
Cologne	0	32	c	Madrid	2	36	r	Riyadh	14	57	f	Zurich	-3	27	f

Temperatures at midday local time X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: high J will drift northwest and merge with the high pressure over Greenland; low O will drift west and fill; low P will push northwest and maintain its central pressure



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Victoria AA ★★★★
A THISTLE HOTEL

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A THISTLE HOTEL

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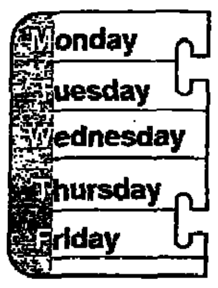
Our City Editor on the Granada/Forte power play



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THE HIDDEN ASSETS AT SEA CONTAINERS

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16 1995

GILL ALLEN

Sir Rocco Forte, executive chairman of Forte, takes time out from the fray to test his cooking skills in the kitchens of the Waldorf Hotel, London

Troubled Trafalgar hit by £321m losses

By Paul Durman

TRAFALGAR HOUSE, the troubled construction and engineering group, has plunged to annual losses of £321 million, prompting fresh doubts about the management leading the long-promised turnaround.

Nigel Rich, Trafalgar's chief executive, yesterday blamed previous management for the lax financial controls that led to the disastrous results — twice as bad as the City feared after the group's October profit warning.

But the City is starting to run out of patience with the "past management" excuse. One analyst said: "Most institutions were prepared for the worst. They got it. People are beginning to wonder, is this management team going to deliver? They've been there longer than people think."

Kevin Fenelon, investment director with Scottish Amicable Investment Managers, was still not sure that Trafalgar's management had a grip on cash flows into and out of the business.

Trafalgar's losses included £110 million of write-downs and restructuring at the Cunard cruise line, and more than £90 million of losses on engineering contracts. It is not paying a dividend on its preference shares.

Hongkong Land, the arm of the Jardine Matheson empire that owns 26 per cent of Trafalgar House, has had directors on the UK company's board for two and a half years. Yet Mr Rich, previously managing director of Jardine Matheson, said the true extent of Trafalgar's problems "only became apparent as we stripped away the layers and got beneath the skin".

The results for the year to September 30 include £204.2 million of exceptional losses. As well as Cunard's problems — including £8.4 million of refunds to passengers on the infamous QE2 cruise last Christmas — this covers £56.7 million to pay for restructuring the group's engineering businesses, and the £12 million cost of Trafalgar's attempted bid for Northern Electric.

Hongkong Land, forced to issue its own profit warning, re-affirmed its long term commitment to Trafalgar, and said it had "full confidence in the new management team".

One securities firm estimated that with £425 million of preference shares, Trafalgar House is worth only 5p-10p per ordinary share on a break-up. Yesterday, the shares closed down 2p at 24½p.

Simon Keswick of Jardine Matheson, chairman of Trafalgar for two years, said the group had suffered from inadequate leadership, lack of operational control and weak financial disciplines.

Mr Rich said Trafalgar's management reporting system had proved wholly inadequate for a group with 700 subsidiaries. The company culture left behind had encouraged the concealment of bad news. "It's very easy for people to give (senior management) a comfortable feeling when every single contract relies on a degree of discretion," he added.

Although Trafalgar suffered a cash outflow of £217 million, and its net assets halved to £355 million, Mr Rich believes the group can return to profitability. Operating losses reached £108 million, a reverse from an £80 million profit in 1994. The biggest problems came in power engineering, which lost £69.3 million (£13.3 million profit).

Tempus, page 26

Forte attacks Granada growth record

By Eric Reguly

FORTE went on the offensive again yesterday, saying Granada has only grown through acquisitions and that adding Forte to the mix would create an unfocused 1980s-style conglomerate.

The attack came as Granada's shares fell a further 3p to 632p yesterday. If the 8p dividend is stripped out, this leaves the shares at 1p below the 625p price at which the institutions have agreed to underwrite the bid.

Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, attached little relevance to the continued drop in the share price since the company launched its £3.3 billion hostile offer for Forte on November 22. He said: "The price will bounce around the underwriting price until the last few days."

There is a cash alternative of 321.7p, but Granada would rather not have to pay 100 per cent cash for Forte. Forte shares closed at 331½p, up 2p.

Mr Robinson described Forte's effort to paint Granada as an increasingly fragmented conglomerate as "cheeky". He said that if Granada succeeds in buying Forte, it will have only three main business: hotels and restaurants, TV programming and TV rentals.

Granada said that, by Friday, it had received acceptances for 1.5 per cent of Forte's shares. It has extended the offer until January 12. If Granada raises its bid, it must do so by January 9.

Separately, Granada [illegible] it "wishes to dissociate [illegible]" from a *Sunday Times* article that broke down the cost savings it expected to make at Forte if the bid succeeds. A Granada document released on Thursday said the company could squeeze an extra £100 million in annual earnings out of Forte, but it would not break down the figure.

Melvyn Marckus, page 24

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Find a good home for your savings

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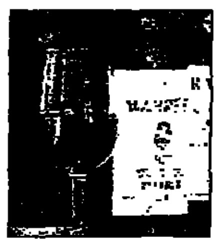
The winners and losers of the year

A CORKING INVESTMENT



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Buying wine for profit and pleasure

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3642.6	(-29.0)
Yield	3.96%	
FT-SE A All share	1780.34	(-10.39)
Nikkei	19346.55	(-152.75)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5174.92	(-7.23)*
S&P Composite	616.13	(-0.79)*
Federal Funds	6%*	(5[illegible]%)
Long Bond	110[illegible]*	(111[illegible])
Yield	6.06%*	(6.08%)
3-mth Interbank	6[illegible]%	(6[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	111[illegible]	(111[illegible])
New York		
$	1.5395*	(1.5430)
London:		
$	1.5393	(1.5421)
DM	2.2208	(2.2192)
FFr	7.6430	(7.6480)
SFr	1.7904	(1.7939)
Yen	157.27	(156.51)
£ Index	83.0	(83.0)
London:		
DM	1.4430*	(1.4383)
FFr	4.9630*	(4.9525)
SFr	1.1627*	(1.1640)
Yen	102.20*	(101.49)
$ Index	94.2	(94.1)
Tokyo close Yen 101.70		
Brent 15-day (Mar)	$17.30	(n/a)
London close	$388.00	($385.95)

* denotes midday trading price

Profits warning

The construction industry claimed another victim yesterday as Higgs and Hill warned the stock market that its 1995 results will fall well below previous forecasts. Page 24.

Mortgage payout claim rejected

By Caroline Merrell

A LANDMARK High Court judgment has settled a two-year wrangle about the scope of mortgage indemnity guarantee cover.

Borrowers who take out a loan for more than 75 per cent of the value of a property are obliged to take out guarantee cover to protect lenders should they have to repossess and sell at a loss. Lenders insist this is for their benefit only but some borrowers have been claiming that they too should benefit from a payout.

Mr Justice Waller ruled in the High Court yesterday that Iain Rowlande Brown, a former Woolwich Building Society employee, could not benefit from the proceeds of his guarantee cover and was liable to the society for the full amount of his debt. He had argued that the Woolwich should deduct from what he owed any payout it had received from the policy.

The ruling is likely to set a precedent for the many similar cases between lenders and borrowers.

The argument centred on the right of lenders to pursue repossessed former borrowers for debts, even when the lenders were fully covered by a guarantee policy. Debts comprised arrears as well as the shortfall between the outstanding mortgage and the amount the lender raised by selling the property.

Frank Bartlett, Woolwich head of lending, said: "The ruling leaves borrowers and their advisers in no doubt of the purpose of the MIG".

The Council of Mortgage Lenders said it hoped the outcome would put an end to misleading advice that mortgage indemnity can protect borrowers from their debt obligations.

Mr Rowlande Brown was refused leave to appeal.

Weekend Money, page 28

France and Spain make rate cuts

FRANCE and Spain lowered interest rates yesterday, after the wave of European rate cuts triggered by the Bundesbank on Thursday (Janet Bush writes).

The Bank of France cut its intervention rate to 4.45 per cent from 4.70 per cent with effect from Monday. This move came little more than a week after the Bank shaved the rate from 4.80 per cent, and was seen by the markets as a reward for the French Government's stand against striking trade unions. The franc and French bonds rallied but the Paris stock market fell back by nearly 1 per cent as investors counted the cost of the 22-day strike.

The Bank of Spain cut its daily money market intervention rate by a ¼-point, usually a forerunner to a cut in official rates. The markets' attention now turns to Tuesday's meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee to see whether US rates will come down too.

Yorkshire fears electricity hitch

By Christine Buckley

FEARS of a delay to energy's Big Bang in 1998 — when customers can buy fuel from any supplier in the country — were heightened yesterday when Yorkshire Electricity said that the industry is not moving fast enough to devise the radical changes needed.

The company said: "Current proposals being developed within the electricity pool are proving to be complex and expensive, and we are concerned ... that they may be delivered too late."

Malcolm Chatwin, chief executive, said that the pool, which works out pricing procedures for electricity, was failing to deliver a simple, cost-effective plan for companies to use each other's systems to deliver electricity across the country. He made his comments as Yorkshire confirmed its plans for a £1-a-share special giveaway and announced half-year results.

Yorkshire's fears add to concern that the industry is falling short of the ambitious scheme for customers to buy from any electricity company. Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, recently pressed the industry to step up progress on this. He is to rule soon on who will pay for the operation to switch supply through rival networks so that customers in the North can buy electricity from southern companies if they wish.

Yorkshire, which cut operating costs 15.6 per cent in the half year to September 30, against the same 1994 period, offset a fall in revenue caused by the electricity price review. Pre-tax profits rose 13.3 per cent, to £110.6 million, on sales down 4.2 per cent, to £620.1 million. The interim dividend on the consolidated shares, payable on March 26, is 11.88p, equivalent to 9.9p on previously issued shares, a rise of 10 per cent.

Tempus, page 26

The seam of plenty for King Coal's men

By Martin Barrow

RICHARD BUDGE, the new King Coal, is cast in the unlikely role of Father Christmas after promising a festive bonus for the 10,000 miners and support staff who now work for him.

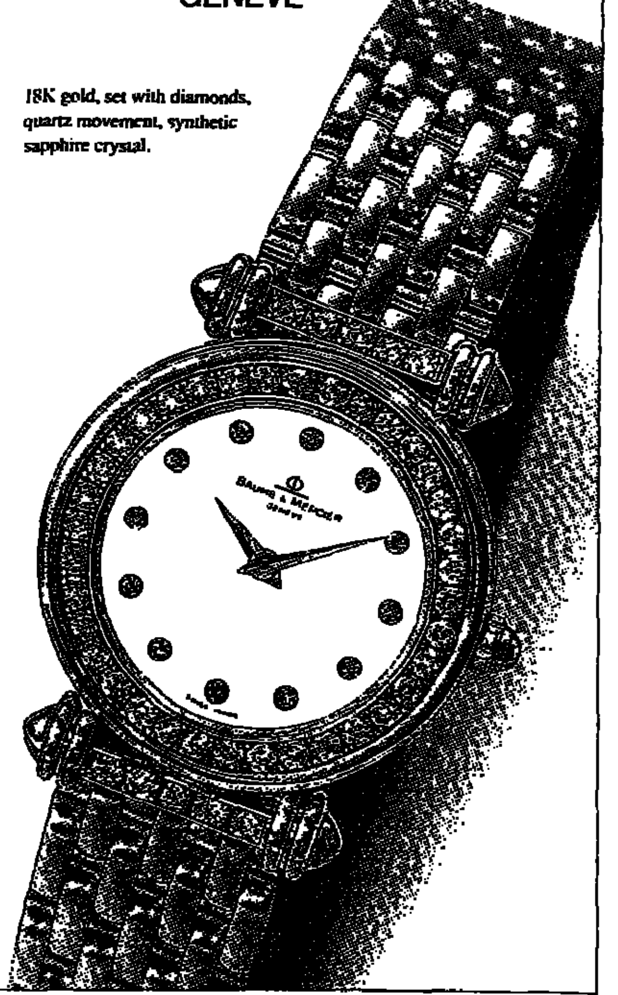
RJB Mining, the country's largest coal mining operation following the privatisation of British Coal, yesterday unveiled a package of pay and perks that could add £1,500 a year to the take-home pay of its employees.

Mr Budge, chief executive of RJB, said: "After a year of integration and progress we are applying a remuneration package which will benefit all employees." The company is to increase basic rates across the board by 3.2 per cent, in line with the Retail Prices Index in November, adding between £5 and £7 a week from January 1. There will also be a repeat of last year's £250 holiday lump sum, equivalent to a grade rate increase of between 2.4 per cent and 3.2 per cent.

For the first time there will be a profit-related scheme designed to increase take-home pay from basic salary and overtime by between 2 and 3 per cent, worth up to £19.20 a week. The company has also promised to allocate shares worth about £500 to each employee, subject to the company's financial results for the current year. The free shares will cost the company more than £4 million. The shares will be allocated on the same terms as those offered to employees in January after RJB took over British Coal's pits and opencast sites in England and North Wales. Employees were given 50 free shares and a further 200 free shares if they bought 100 at 320p a share.

Miners who took up the offer received shares worth £1,120 for an outlay of £320. With a rise in the price of each share to 548p, the holding would now be worth a total of £1,918. RJB shares have risen strongly as the company made quick progress in reducing the debt it acquired with British Coal assets.

Budge: benefits for all



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Swing of the Forte pendulum

> **"I have a simple belief that if you get to the stage where you are panicking and think that you have to acquire something to achieve growth, you're in deep trouble because you make silly acquisitions."**
>
> *Gerry Robinson, quoted in* Roads to the Top *by Ruth Tait, 1995.*

MELVYN MARCKUS

◆

I WOULD like to claim that, as a result of hours of painstaking research, I unearthed this quote myself. That, however, is not the case. The quote forms the introduction to Forte's latest salvo in its defence against Granada's £3.3 billion takeover bid. It serves, among other things, to introduce a little humour into a corporate power play that is destined to become less and less humorous.

Not that the quote will keep Robinson awake at nights. He has not panicked and will argue that Forte does not represent a silly acquisition. More to the point, Robinson has other matters to dwell on, such as Granada's share price. When Robinson unveiled his attack, Granada's quote stood at 697p. In a flat market place yesterday, Granada's shares fell a further 4p to 631p. Strip out the 8p dividend and this leaves the price 2p below the 625p at which City institutions agreed to underwrite. Forte's share price rose 3p to 332p, a premium of 10.4p over Granada's cash terms. What Robinson and advisers Lazards are inevitably focusing on is the fact that Granada's share and cash terms are now a shade below the all-cash offer of 321.6p.

Let us go back to the beginning. Not to the 1930s when Lord Forte founded an empire by opening a milk bar in Regent Street, but a little less than a month ago when Robinson launched Granada's offer and declared that Forte is of a "worthwhile size" and offers "significant scope for performance improvement". The odds, in a takeover battle, tend to favour the predator for a variety of reasons, not least the eagerness of institutions, particularly in the UK, to accept a swift turn. Allegations of "short termism" against the City are based on precisely such practices. With the advantage of surprise, Granada held the initiative and the snap reaction in certain quarters of the City was that, come an upward adjustment in Granada's terms (opening shots are strictly for the birds), Forte's days of independence were surely numbered.

But, come day 22 of the bid, which is today, and it is evident that the pendulum has swung in Forte's favour. Whether it has swung sufficiently to put the outcome at 50-50 is debatable at this stage but, most certainly, this bid is not progressing as smoothly as Robinson's impolite opening remarks might have suggested.

On Thursday, Granada's riposte to Forte's initial defence document heralded the claim that under Robinson & Co's management, Forte's profits "can be improved by over £100 million per annum" before organisation costs. When this claim was first reported, last weekend, speculation had it that £25 million to £30 million would be cut from Forte's payroll, while central costs — embracing "layers of management" — would be reduced by £35 million. Just for good measure, the purchasing budget would be slashed by £45 million. Granada's camp dissociates itself from such figures — other than the £100 million. Nor, as yet, has a breakdown been forthcoming.

Forte's latest document focuses on Granada's controversial strategy of creating a new UK conglomerate — a species that is unlikely to benefit from the revelation that Trafalgar House has managed to achieve a loss of more than £320 million for 1994-95. The bullet points from chairman Sir Rocco Forte are:

- ■ Granada is a group of largely unrelated businesses. Adding Forte would produce an even more fragmented conglomerate. There is real doubt whether conglomerates create shareholder value. During the 1990s, conglomerates have significantly underperformed the market.
- ■ Granada's earnings growth is slowing. Several of its underlying businesses are in decline and some have been losing market share. Granada's performance has been boosted by short-term improvements from acquisitions.
- ■ We doubt whether Granada has the management skills to achieve long-term growth for the Forte businesses. Granada does not have the experience to manage a large, complex and international business.
- ■ Granada's own pro forma balance sheet shows a company with debt of £3.6 billion and gearing of 207 per cent, implying an annual interest charge of about £250 million.

Why has the pendulum swung? How far has it swung? Bearing in mind that Granada's camp would argue that there has been no swing, such questions are not easy to define. What is interesting is that investment perspectives on the Granada/Forte power play tend to vary according to age and experience. Those who lived through the corporate takeover activity of the Seventies and leveraged excesses of the Eighties tend to shy away from Mr Robinson's grandiose plans. Debts of £3.6 billion are synonymous with a host of corporate disasters. The go-go generation, with less awareness of what has gone-gone, tend to be more sympathetic to Granada's expansion plans. The problem for Mr Robinson is the City's mounting belief that he is intent on a massive break-up of Forte's hotel operations — for the benefit of Granada's shareholders. Forte's shareholders will only be tempted to agree in return for a significant premium, a juggling act not helped by Granada's share price.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.18	2.02
Austria Sch	16.64	15.14
Belgium Fr	48.86	44.36
Canada $	2.225	2.065
Cyprus Cyp£	0.748	0.693
Denmark Kr	9.22	8.42
Finland Mkk	7.27	6.62
France Fr	8.06	7.41
Germany Dm	2.37	2.16
Greece Dr	388.00	363.00
Hong Kong $	12.57	11.57
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1900	4.5400
Italy Lira	2572.00	2417.00
Japan Yen	170.90	154.90
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.640	2.410
New Zealand $	2.51	2.29
Norway Kr	10.40	9.60
Portugal Esc	244.00	225.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.40
Spain Pta	196.00	183.00
Sweden Kr	10.90	10.10
Switzerland Fr	1.93	1.75
Turkey Lira	refer	83444.0
USA $	1.639	1.509

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates for travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Higgs gives results warning

By Sarah Cunningham

HIGGS and Hill gave a warning yesterday that its 1995 results will fall well below expectations because of difficult conditions in the construction markets.

The company said full-year trading results will be around breakeven, compared with stock market forecasts of about £1.3 million profit. It also said that it would take £6 million in charges. Its share price dropped 22p to 70p after the announcement but later recovered to close at 83p, down 9p on the day.

The company said it would be charging about £2.5 million for costs relating to the restructuring of its contracting activities. Benefits from the reorganisation should begin to be felt next year, it said.

It also expects to make a further provision of £3.5 million against its contract to build an extension to Guy's Hospital. John Theakston, the chief executive, said the company was in talks with the hospital trust about delays to the £80 million project. The firm has already made a substantial interim claim to the client.

Higgs and Hill, which made a net profit of £895,000 in 1994 on a trading profit of £1.05 million, is involved in large hospital projects, and is lead contractor for the Windsor Castle refurbishment.

Despite what the company called "continuing difficulties in the group's markets", Mr Theakston said this week's rate cut was encouraging for the housing and commercial property markets.

Analysts were not particularly surprised by the profits warning, given the poor state of the contracting sector. "It is a very tough sector at the moment," one commented.

Higgs and Hill said a decision on the level of dividend would be taken in March, when it makes its preliminary announcement, "in the light of the trading outlook at that time".

At the interim stage, the dividend was held at 1p a share. In the last full year, the total dividend was also held at 2.5p a share.

Goal backs Talisman's £131m offer

By Carl Mortished

GOAL PETROLEUM, the quoted oil exploration company, is recommending a £131 million cash offer for its shares from Talisman Energy, a Canadian oil and gas company with North Sea interests.

Talisman is offering 97.5p for every Goal share, an increase of 5½p on the previous day's price and a 43 per cent rise on their value prior to the announcement by Goal on Tuesday that it was in talks over a potential offer.

The Canadian bidder, which has a market worth of C$2.5 billion (£1.2 billion), has secured a firm undertaking to accept the offer from investors holding 45 per cent of Goal, including Mercury Asset Management. Norwich Union, Goal's largest shareholder with 29 per cent, has also accepted the offer. Shares of Goal, whose principal assets are in the North Sea, closed 4½p up at 96½p.

Electra sale helps final

ELECTRA Investment Trust, which specialises in unquoted investments, out-performed the FT-SE all-share's 14.74 per cent rise in the year to September 30 with a 15.72 per cent increase in net asset value to 440.03p per share (writes Patricia Tehan).

The sale of a 50 per cent stake in Electra Kingsway, the management company, to Flemings, the merchant bank, brought a £6.4 million gain. Pre-tax profits were £3 million lower at £16.5 million. The dividend is up by 4.14p to 7.55p, with a final payment of 3.85p due on February 19.

Royal Bank rejects bid speculation

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND has denied that it is in bid talks in an effort to put an end to stock market speculation that it is a takeover target. Royal Bank's shares closed 22p higher last night at 608p on rumours that HSBC, the international banking group that owns Midland, was about to launch a cash and shares bid valuing the shares at about 750p and the Scottish bank at over £6 billion. That compares with its £4.7 billion market capitalisation at the closing share price on Thursday night.

The bank said it "is not in discussions with any potential target". Despite the denial, the shares remained strong yesterday, with some market participants predicting a bid early next year. An HSBC spokeswoman said the bank did not comment on market rumour.

Seafield cash call

SEAFIELD RESOURCES, the oil and gas explorer, which achieved a full listing on the stock market in April, announced a rights issue to provide funding for the company's exploration programme. It is offering four shares for every 13 held at 65p each. The proceeds of about £10.2 million, net of expenses, are needed to bridge a funding gap between the costs of the exploration programme and returns, expected in 1997, in the Durward and Dauntless fields in the North Sea. Seafield's share price closed down 3p at 73p.

Meconic profits up 36%

MECONIC, the fine chemicals company that makes opiates and other controlled drugs, announced a 36 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for the 27 weeks ended November 3. The company floated on the stock market in June. Profits on ordinary activities before tax rose to £2.45 million from £1.80 million on a turnover up 15 per cent at £16.6 million (£14.4 million). Pro-forma earnings per share increased 22 per cent to 4.98p (4.09p), and an interim dividend of 1.65p per share will be paid to shareholders on February 14.

Consumer indicator up

THE Consumer Industries' Longer-Term Leading Indicator, published by NTC Research, the business research company, rose marginally in November, the ninth successive monthly rise and suggesting consumer activity will increase throughout 1996. The most recent increase is attributed to three main factors: higher November retail sales, the highest level of job vacancies since October 1990, and a continued fall in interest rates. In addition, consumer confidence appears to have improved marginally since the Budget.

AMEC

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: ROD SMALLWOOD

Charting the market for heavy metal

Jon Ashworth takes a backstage look at the way the manager of one of Britain's most successful rock bands keeps the show rolling

IN THE dying days of the hippy era, two Cambridge undergraduates fell into the business of managing university events — balls, concerts and so on. The partnership thrived, and, in 1980, the pair won the contract to manage Iron Maiden, destined to become Britain's most successful heavy rock band. They have never looked back.

Rod Smallwood looks more like a rugby player than the manager of a heavy metal rock band. I find him in the kitchen of his west London home, preparing for the Varsity match at Twickenham.

"We're big on corporate entertainment," he chuckles, packing baguettes and crisps into a large wicker hamper. "We're easy to spot. We're the only black Range Rover in the car park flying an Iron Maiden flag." His partner, Andy Taylor, shakes with laughter, puffing on a fat cigar.

Smallwood will be back at Twickenham today for the Western Samoa game, after a week that took in rugby, business meetings and a whirlwind trip to Germany. Iron Maiden are in the midst of a European tour, and Smallwood checks in from time to time. "They'll probably say: Ooooh, Noooooo," says Taylor, gesticulating at Smallwood, and feigning a heavy Yorkshire accent. "Blooody 'ell. Not you." Smallwood grins wearily. "I get down to the show and have a 20-minute chat with the boys. There'll be two or three in the dressing room, a couple of them wandering about, and maybe one phoning home."

Smallwood monitors the show from the mixing desk. "The band on stage can't see themselves and can't hear themselves," he says, reaching for a packet of Marlboro Lights. "Sometimes I say, well, try that . . . I then go backstage and drink all their beer."

Iron Maiden travel by luxury coach, often driving through the night. There are bunks below, and the upper section is equipped with TV, video, bar and fridge. The band fly home on Christmas Eve after playing venues that include Berlin, Vienna and Stuttgart. An American tour kicks off in February.

Seeking a photo-opportunity, we ignite the gasfire in the living room. How about a photograph of Smallwood tossing bundles of dollar bills into the flames? "I'd never do that," he says, outraged. "I'm a Yorkshireman." I suggest destroying his house, but this does not go down well.

Smallwood ends up posing in an enormous chair carved from Californian redwood and covered in fur. He appears eager to get the photos over with — mindful, perhaps, of the fate of Iron Maiden's mascot, a giant inflatable monster called Eddie, which is strapped into an electric chair and executed on stage.

Smallwood and Taylor are still in business after 26 years, unusually for an industry built on fragile egos. Taylor was best man at Smallwood's wedding. "The stories I could tell you," he says — and starts to describe their first meeting. "It was in a home for nurses. One of us slept on the floor." "None of that," says Smallwood, waving furiously from the chair, where the photographer has him pinned down. The pair are well-matched, even down to birthdays that are six days apart. Both were born in February 1950. "It's a classic joke," says Taylor. "We always argue, but it's very healthy argument." Smallwood adds: "Of course, I'm always right."

Taylor hails from Newcastle, and Smallwood is from Huddersfield, and the pair hit if off immediately when they arrived at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1969. Smallwood recalls: "We used to do a lot of the rag things, and ended up doing about 20 of the Oxford-Cambridge May balls. It was decided that Andy would go into accountancy, initially, to learn how to use the income, with the end view of building a group of companies in the leisure area."

Smallwood heard, through a friend, about a musician called Steve Harris, who had a band who were making a name for themselves. He duly took on the management of Iron Maiden, and clinched a record deal with EMI, paving the way for a meteoric rise. Smallwood and Taylor formed a company called Sanctuary, taking the name from an Iron Maiden song. By 1982, annual sales of Iron Maiden records and merchandise had hit £50 million, and Sanctuary was expanding in all directions. Smallwood recalls: "We set up a whole structure for the band, their own group of companies, their own accountants." Today, Sanctuary has grown into a huge enterprise, with its own recording studios and a film production arm. As Taylor puts it: "It made sense for those teams of people to go out and acquire other clients."

> ❛The band on stage can't see themselves and can't hear themselves❜

In the early days, Sanctuary set up a tax-avoidance scheme, which kept the band largely out of the UK from 1982 to 1988. They were not allowed to spend more than 60 days a year in Britain. Taylor says: "Some of the tours lasted 13 months, so in truth they were out of the country most of the time anyway. It wasn't contrived. It was just moving through a cycle of touring, then writing the next album in Jersey, recording it in the Bahamas, back, and then off touring again."

Smallwood spent much of this period on the road. "I was literally travelling hundreds of thousands of miles a year all round the world." He was based in Los Angeles, in a house built by James Cagney, and later owned by Peter Sellers. Taylor remained in London, monitoring the finances. "He was out on the road. I was back at home, building a support infrastructure, doing the deals, controlling the money, doing the tax planning. The interesting part."

GILL ALLEN

Sitting pretty: Rod Smallwood taking it easy at his home in west London in a fur-covered chair carved out of Californian redwood

So do Iron Maiden go around smashing up hotel rooms? "You get a bit bored with that," says Smallwood, stubbing out another cigarette, while Laura, his two-year-old daughter, peeps round the corner. "You do that early on."

But there must be *some* stories? Smallwood grins, and launches into a tale about Nicko McBrain, Iron Maiden's drummer. "Like all bands, the drummer is a major character. Heart of gold, real East End humour, would make a wonderful stand-up comedian. And like all drummers, he's fond of a drink."

Smallwood and the boys arrived in Tokyo, and went to check out the local bars. Nicko carried on drinking by himself, and could not remember where he was staying. He persuaded a taxi driver to take him round all the nearby hotels, before finding the right one.

Taylor starts to talk about the time one of the band disappeared in Central Park, but Smallwood cuts him short.

Iron Maiden are heavily into football. They play while touring, challenging local journalists and record company reps to a game. Steve Harris even has his own pitch on his estate in Essex. He converted the stables into a home and away dressing room, and decorated the home side in West Ham colours. The estate has its own pub, the Cart and Horses — named for the venue where Iron Maiden played their first gig in November 1975. The band rarely fly first-class. Smallwood says: "You tend to fly business. The guys would sometimes come back from America on Concorde. After two months away, you just want to get home. You go to Madison Square Garden, you get limos, but generally speaking we stick to buses. We're not into a style thing, because we don't consider ourselves to be pop stars." Sanctuary handles travel arrangements for artists such as Diana Ross. "She's just what you want," says Taylor, a gleam in his eye. "She books Concorde, private charter planes . . ." Smallwood grimaces, pretending not to hear.

Another big area is licensing. Taylor explains: "Maiden certainly were the biggest merchandising act in the world over the Eighties. We used to have people arrested and thrown in jail if they were selling pirate merchandise." Smallwood adds: "The kids get ripped off. T-shirts being sold outside venues are usually cheap Portuguese or South American T-shirts — probably cost about a quid each. They fall apart."

Sanctuary's booking agency handles artists such as Metallica, Blur and Wet Wet Wet. Nomis Studios in Shepherds Bush, west London, is set to become an entertainment village, combining offices and studios under one roof. A record label, Planet 3, provided Britain's entry for the Eurovision Song Contest.

Sanctuary Screen Productions is currently producing an Enid Blyton series for television. There are plans to expand into sports management, and catering. Taylor says: "I like the catering side, and Rod likes the sport side, so it's a logical next step for us." A stock market flotation could follow in three or four years' time.

The doorbell rings, and Smallwood's rugby mates start piling in. He greets them at the door, clad in jumper and woolly green socks. The hamper is packed, and Twickenham awaits. There is not an Iron Maiden poster to be seen.

HIDDEN ASSETS

One man's monument to the golden age of travel

Sara McConnell on evocative images at the London HQ of Sea Containers

Only a small leap of the imagination and Sea Containers House casts off its mooring on the South Bank of the Thames, launches itself into the grey water and cleaves its way through the river, its golden figurehead gleaming.

Among the undistinguished office blocks, Sea Containers House rears up like an ocean liner, its banks of windows broken in the middle by a vast prow of gold leaf waves jutting out into the river. Golden globes carved with wave shapes adorn the corners and the top of the building. Love it or hate it, you cannot ignore it.

Sea Containers, the US company that owns the Orient Express, a string of five-star hotels and the high-speed cross-Channel Seacat, did not stop there when designing its London headquarters. Anyone wanting to simulate a trip on a luxury ocean liner need only step inside the company's offices. Stair rails curve and shine, art deco lamps are set into the walls and tables, and cupboards are inlaid with mahogany and set with edged mirrors that would make the fussiest ship's captain happy. A huge glass case, containing rare orchids, dominates the executive floor. Framed original posters recall the luxurious prewar train and boat trips that Sea Containers has spent so much time and money recreating in the past 20 years.

Pride of place goes to the Hales Cup for the Blue Riband of the Atlantic, wrested from the Americans in 1990 by the Seacat for the fastest crossing of the North Atlantic by a passenger vessel. The trophy is a vast baroque golden carving of figureheads and ships on a marble base, first presented in 1935. Curiously, it fits into the interior perfectly.

Not one doorknob of this interior is accidental or bought off the shelf as luxury executive office suites. It was planned, designed and executed down to the last detail, with James Sherwood, the company's president, firmly in control.

There is more than a hint of interest in the romance of pre-jet age travel in his favoured design for Sea Containers' London head office.

Sea Containers House was intended by its original developers as a hotel, but the economic slump of the late 1970s put paid to those plans and the developers went into receivership. The timing was perfect for Sea Containers.

Mr Sherwood had been making the most of the expansion of the group's container business by buying the company's first hotel, the Cipriani, in Venice. In the early 1980s, he rescued the coaches of the defunct Orient Express and set about restoring them to their pre-war glory. The hotel on the South Bank of the Thames was the final piece of the jigsaw in the recreation of the London-Venice, Simplon-Orient Express route. Sea Containers bought the concrete shell from the receivers for £9 million in 1978, planning to develop it as a hotel.

However, continuing uncertainty over future development on the South Bank, coupled with government permission for further offices, led to the turning over of the whole building to offices between 1982 and 1986.

Sea Containers now occupies only 20 per cent of the building, which it sold in 1988 for £110 million and then leased back with control of its management. Civil servants occupy 11 of the 13 river view floors.

Sea Containers has no control over the government-issue metal filing cabinets or tubular chairs in these offices, but it can, and does, make sure that the luxury character of reception, corridors and lifts is preserved.

Not quite the image the Government may want to convey, but that, fortunately for the civil servants, is not their problem.

Focal point: The Hales Cup in situ at Sea Containers House

THE SUNDAY TIMES
The travails of Trafalgar
❛Trafalgar House is used to disasters; the company has been in a state of turmoil for most of the decade. But, announcing losses of £320m, the once-great conglomerate has shocked even its most bomb-proof followers . . .❜
Business Focus — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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£30,000 +	6.75	5.06
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£25,000 +	6.05	4.54
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£10,000-£24,999	3.00%	3.03%
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£25,000-£99,999	3.625%	3.67%
£10,000-£24,999	3.00%	3.03%
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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Television shares boosted by media shake-out threat

Round trip: some newspapers face an uncertain future

THE Government's alterations to the Broadcasting Bill are likely to provide the signal for one of the biggest turkey shoots in corporate history.

Last night the City was bracing itself for a stream of takeovers and cross-media stakebuilding exercises, with a number of well-known names, ranging from newspapers to independent television and radio, expected to disappear altogether.

Under the proposals media owners will be allowed to hold more than two Independent Television licences, but will be limited to 15 per cent of the total television audience. There is also provision for local newspapers to buy up to 50 per cent of the radio ownership points in their areas.

The move had been anticipated in the City for some time. Brokers say that the way is now paved for a wholesale restructuring of the industry.

Among those television companies to be chased higher was **Yorkshire-Tyne Tees**, which soared 92p to 698p, with the warrants adding 91p at 497p. Speculators are already pondering the prospect of an all-out war between Granada and MAI for control of Yorkshire. Each owns about 14 per cent of the company.

Carlton, down 17p at 959p, is also being tipped as a potential suitor for someone like HTV, up 33p at 302p, or even Express Newspapers, part of **United News & Media**, up 18p at 560p. Others to go better included **Ulster TV**, up 68p to £10.23; **Scottish TV**, up 22p to 491p; **Grampian TV**, up 16p to 219p; and **Border TV**, up 27p to 245p.

The rest of the equity market frittered away an early lead for share prices to close near their low for the day. Dealers said there had been a rush to unwind remaining positions ahead of the expiry of the December options and futures. Once this had been completed, institutional investors decided to call it a day.

The FT-SE 100 index, up 16 points early on, was dragged lower in late trading, reflecting an opening fall on Wall Street. The index eventually closed 29.0 points down at 3,642.6, a rise on the week of 12.6. As brokers were quick to point out, it was not much of a response to the Chancellor's rate cut this week.

Market-makers short of stock were feeling the heat first thing in shares of **Royal Bank of Scotland** as they were chased sharply higher on talk of a bid from HSBC. At one stage, the price touched 639p before the company issued a terse statement saying that it was not having discussions with any potential bidder. The shares eventually settled 22p higher at 608p.

However, the market continues to view Royal Bank of Scotland and its close rival **Bank of Scotland**, up 16½p at 306½p, as potential takeover targets. According to brokers, the recent restructuring of the industry has left them less equipped to compete in the tougher environment.

Elsewhere in the banking sector, **Lloyds Bank** dropped 11½p to 864p after some cautious comments from ABN Amro Hoare Govett.

The losses from **Trafalgar House** were worse than the most pessimistic forecasts. Trafalgar will be glad to see the back of 1995, which started with its failed bid for Northern Electric and continued with the *QE2* refit fiasco.

The group is now ready to make provisions totalling £204 million. This has sent it plunging into the red, with losses of £321 million compared with a profit of £46 million last time. Borrowings have also soared and are likely to peak at £370 million in the current year. The company itself blamed inadequate management for the problems. The only saving grace was a pledge from its biggest shareholder, Hong Kong Land, to support the group. The shares finished 2p lower at 24½p, just 3½p above its all-time low.

Granada's hopes of winning control of Forte took a knock as its share price, after stripping out the 8p dividend, slipped below the 625p level at which the bid has been underwritten. Granada finished the day 3p easier at 632p, or 624p in ex-dividend form. Forte responded with a rise of 2p to 331½p. It continues to urge shareholders to reject the £3.4 billion bid.

Amec continues to put up fierce resistance to the bid from Kvaerner, the Norwegian group. Brokers are forecasting a close finish when the bid ends on Monday. Kvaerner currently accounts for 26.1 per cent of the equity and is hoping to win the support of institutional shareholders like M&G with 8 per cent of the shares.

But there was further gloom for the construction industry after Higgs and Hill warned that the best it could achieve in the current year was break even. The group has been forced to make write-offs totalling £6 million. It blamed the continuing depressed conditions in the construction and housing markets.

First-time dealings in **Dmatek**, the first Israeli company to obtain a quote on the London stock market, got off to a confident start. Placed on AIM at 75p, the shares touched 88p before ending 10p higher at 85p. Dmatek is a computer company specialising in equipment for the tagging of prisoners.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: News of the cut in French interest rates paved the way for an early mark-up. But prices closed below their best as investors moved in to take profits.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt touched a high for the day of £111$\tfrac{7}{16}$ before closing all-square at £110⅞. There were a total of 40,000 contracts.

In the cash market, brokers reported a further steepening of the yield curve, with most of the support pitched at the shorter-dated issues. Treasury 8 per cent finished £$\tfrac{3}{16}$ better at £105$\tfrac{5}{16}$, while at the long end benchmark, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 was two ticks easier at £103¼.

☐ **NEW YORK**: Wall Street shares were lower at midday in a session dominated by heavy trading volume, spurred by the final triple witching day of 1995 and weakness in technology shares. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 7.23 points at 5174.92.

NatWest Securities, the broker, has extended some seasonal cheer to clients with a round-up of high street retailers. There is still another week's shopping to go but high on NatWest's list is Next, unchanged at 451p, and Storehouse, 3p easier at 342p.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Royal Bank of Scot	608p	+50p	Bid speculation
Waste M'ment Int	331p	-13p	Profits warning
Goal Petroleum	96½p	+30½p	Bid approach
East Midlands Elec	703p	-184p	Disappointing figures
Kwik Save	508p	-48p	Profits warning
Pearson	614p	-40p	Further write-offs planned
Higgs & Hill	83p	-10p	Profits warning
Trafalgar House	24½p	-5p	Bigger than expected losses
Yorkshire TV	698p	+93p	Speculative buying

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5174.92 (-7.23)
S&P Composite	616.13 (-0.75)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	19346.55 (-152.75)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9858.65 (-54.19)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	477.09 (-1.61)
Sydney:	
AO	2220.5 (-2.2)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2284.77 (-1.08)
Singapore:	
Straits	2203.11 (-1.55)
Brussels:	
General	8299.02 (-21.62)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1859.25 (-15.73)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	710.10 (+1.10)
London:	
FT 30	2633.3 (-23.1)
FT 100	3642.6 (-29.0)
FT-SE Mid 250	3959.8 (-1.9)
FT-SE-A 350	1806.4 (-11.5)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1475.14 (+0.66)
FT A All-Share	1780.34 (-10.39)
FT Non Financials	1873.29 (-11.41)
FT Fixed Interest	115.01 (+0.10)
FT Govt Secs	96.10 (+0.05)
Bargains	28204
SEAQ Volume	860.9m
USM (Datastrm)	190.10 (-0.29)
US$	1.5393 (same)
German Mark	2.2209 (+0.0012)
Exchange Index	83.0 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1823
£:SDR	1.0365
RPI	149.8 Nov (3.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	148.8 Nov (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust Hi Inc C (100)	96½	...
Arion Props	9	...
BZW Equities (306)	296	- 7
Benfield & Rea	103	...
CMG (290)	330	- 1
Cash Converters Intl	24	- 1
Com de Part Fin	510	...
Cortworth (150)	151	...
Cox Insurance	110	...
Dmatek	85	...
East Surrey NV	448	...
Fins Tech Tst (100)	102	...
Gardner (L)	133	+ 3
Geared Income C	98	...
Gearhouse Gp (200)	203	...
Jasmin	83	- 2
London Town	80	...
Manx & O'seas	25	...
Martin Curr Jpn	98	...
Martin Curr Jpn Wts	36	+ 1
National Grid (204)	203	- 1½
Peptide Thrptcs (200)	234	...
Per City	365	+ 5
Revelation Picc	100	...
Trocadero	46	+ 2
Wilmington	67	+ 3

RIGHTS ISSUES

Allied Leis n/p (34)	7	...
Dnloe Hse n/p (1r10p)	2	...
Melrose n/p (34)	8½	...
Roxspur n/p (3)	¼	...
TBI n/p (50)	3	...
The TV Crp n/p (97)	6	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Yorkshire TV	698p (+92p)
Regent Inns	685p (+31p)
Chiroscience	364p (+14p)
Royal Bk Scot	608p (+22p)
Stand Chart	574p (+10p)
FALLS:	
Phonelink	187p (-13p)
MAID	245p (-9p)
Telspec	886p (-22p)
TI	425p (-10p)
Prudential	429p (-10p)
Com Union	626p (-13p)

Closing Prices Page 36

TEMPUS

Battle for the small screen

MEDIA shares leapt yesterday on the back of the new ownership rules but the excitement over the next few months will be in boardrooms, not the stock market. The bill which has thrown the market into a turmoil of bid speculation does not come into force until next summer and most of the potential players in this game are as unclear about the outcome as investors. Corporate finance departments in the City will have hit the telephones yesterday, attempting to secure mandates to defend the perceived targets.

Most of the possible candidates will have already taken advice. The most likely scenario being touted is a battle over Yorkshire Tyne-Tees. Both MAI and Granada have 15 per cent interests in the company and YTT shares soared. Scottish Television's interest in HTV gave the latter's shares a big boost as the expectation of a bid for the latter. Meanwile consolidation is predicted among the smaller fry.

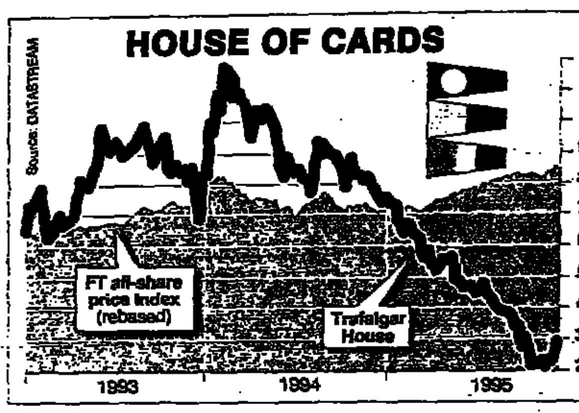
The latter case seems less likely. The change in media ownership rules is predicated on the need to give the ITV network a chance to expand in world where major American and international TV networks are spreading their tentacles round the globe. The ITV networks have little chance to compete on a global scale with the likes of the Turner networks, but could play a role in Europe. Carlton and Granada are the most likely to succeed in this regard and will make the first moves. A bid by Carlton for MAI cannot be ruled out. The former cannot buy YTT without breaching the 15 per cent rule but it will want to make a move as soon as the bill becomes law.

Trafalgar

FOR HongKong Land, the full horror of the Trafalgar House losses may lie ahead. The property arm of the Jardine Matheson group will book a loss for its share of Trafalgar's annual deficit, equal to half of its profit of $306 million in 1994. But Trafalgar is still leaking cash at a tremendous rate and the drain is likely to continue until the engineering and construction activities are brought back into profit.

Building a profitable Trafalgar generating net cash could take two years, the company predicted yesterday. With the four core engineering construction and shipbuilding operations generating operating losses of £170 million, that will be an achievement. In the meantime, the balance sheet is underwater with the equity investors sharing a deficit of almost £100 million.

Trafalgar ruled out another cash call yesterday and, having raised £900 million over the last five years, the company could scarcely be contemplating a rights issue. In such circumstances, a new management is sometimes able to corral a few existing shareholders and convince others that a "new broom" will rescue the sinking ship. Unfortunately, the new broom has been in the company for two years. The Taipans have already rubbished the old Trafalgar management and the ship is still sinking. A refinancing looks necessary and HongKong Land must foot the bill.



Yorkshire Elec

INDEPENDENCE for Yorkshire is an ambition that has long been cherished by those born in the county. But, lamentably, even in these times of fragmented nations it remains just a dream.

Whether Yorkshire Electricity's hopes of keeping the white rose flag flying by hanging on to independence is a similar pipedream remains to be seen. Repeated doubts have been raised by electricity watchers as to whether any regional electricity companies will be able to survive alone when competition takes hold in 1998.

The company's strategy to keep its name over the door holds no surprises. It is pouring back cash to shareholders, paring down costs and polishing up performance. Its cuts have been creditable with a reduction of 15.6 per cent in operating costs offsetting the lower revenues resulting from the electricity price review.

Core businesses are solid and the company has a limited exposure to non-core activities. Yorkshire's forays with generation and gas are measured and it intends to focus on niche generation as opposed to large scale operations.

Yorkshire is equipping itself well for survival. But changes to the industry have become so rapid since the Government ceded its golden share in the regional electricity companies that even the strongest may not survive.

Amec

AMEC has shot itself in the foot so many times since Kvaerner launched its 100p per share bid, an investor might wonder whether it had devised a scorched earth strategy based on self-mutilation. The first and most damaging shot was fired when it launched a pre-emptive bid for McAlpine. The share for share offer gave the market a see-through valuation of Amec using the McAlpine share price and the sight was not pretty.

Since then, Amec has played about with white knights and the Indonesian government but latterly its defence has rested on a turnover forecast. Without any indication of margins, the revenue forecast is essentially meaningless and investors need to take a wider look at the contracting market in order to decide whether Amec is likely, at this stage in the cycle to reap any significant profit gains over the next year or two.

Should Kvaerner lose on Monday, it will be stuck with the shares for some time as no alternative buyer is available. Like Enterprise Oil it will have to wait some time, perhaps over a year for the price to allow recovery of costs. However, Amec is not a Lasmo with hidden reserves. Shareholders who can afford to sell should do so.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	902-870	Mar	1014-1012
Mar	933-932	May	1026-1025
May	952-951	Jul	unq
Jul	970-968	Sep	—
Sep	968-986		
Dec	1001-1000	Volume:	2359

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	2220-2215	Sep	1755-1740
Mar	1936-1935	Nov	1740-1720
May	1831-1830	Jan	1730-1700
Jul	1785-1780	Volume:	5530

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	306.5-05.5
Spot: 377.0		Dec	300.5-99.0
Mar	352.5-52.0	Mar	299.0-96.0
May	342.4-41.5	May	298.0-96.0
Aug	333.5-32.5	Volume:	1723

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 14

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	116.26	115.36	121.27
(+/-)	+10.17	-2.39	+2.67
Eng/Wales:	116.44	115.97	120.32
(+/-)	+10.29	-2.63	+2.61
(%)	+16.0	-9.0	-39.0
Scotland:	100.31	112.10	125.48
(+/-)	+2.36	-1.41	+2.76
(%)	+68.0	-16.0	-37.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.05	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Feb)	17.65	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Mar)	17.30	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	18.80	+0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	18.45	+0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 174 (-1)	O: 177 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	176 (+1)	178 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Jan	175 (+1)	176 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Feb	170 (+1)	172 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	100 (-2)	102 (-2)
Naphtha	159 (n/c)	161 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	169.50-69.75	Apr	157.75-58.00
Feb	165.50-65.75	May	156.00-56.25
Mar	161.75-62.00	Vol:	10628

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	17.64-17.65	May	16.81-16.86
Mar	17.29-17.30	Jun	16.64-16.68
Apr	17.02-17.03	Vol:	20568

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	124.00	Jan	115.00
Mar	126.05	Mar	117.00
May	128.00	May	118.65
Jul	130.10	Sep	109.00
Sep	112.45	Nov	110.55
Volume:	219	Volume:	66

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	270.0
Apr	250.0	252.8
May	unq	290.0
	Volume:	91

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jan 112.50-113.00

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 95	1650	1648	1648
Jan 96	1585	1575	1581
Feb 96	1565	1540	1544
Apr 96	1540	1520	1523

Vol: 279 lots Open interest: 3759
Index 1644 same

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2963.0-2964.0	2744.0-2745.0	2377075
Lead ($/tonne)	714.00-715.00	714.00-714.50	184300
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1023.0-1024.0	1047.0-1048.0	542375
Tin ($/tonne)	6370.0-6375.0	6370.0-6372.0	16890
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1685.0-1685.5	1710.0-1710.5	2427725
Nickel ($/tonne)	8220.0-8225.0	8345.0-8355.0	7884

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Dom	500	22½	39½	46½	4½	12½	20
(*516½)	550	2½	15	21½	34	39	47
Argyll	300	15½	26	30½	3½	9½	16
(*310½)	330	2½	12	16	20½	26	32½
ASDA	100	8	11	14½	2½	6	7
(*105)	110	3	6½	9½	7½	11	12
Boots	550	34½	50	58	3	8½	16
(*579½)	600	6½	21½	29½	24½	31	39½
Br Airways	460	19	33	41	6½	13½	21
(*470)	500	3	14	21	31	35½	42½
BP	500	37½	45½	53	1½	7	11½
(*533½)	550	5½	16½	25	19½	28½	34
Br Steel	140	14	18½	21	0½	3	6½
(*152½)	160	2	7½	10	9	12	17
C & W	420	31	45½	53	5	11½	18
(*444½)	460	9½	24	32½	22	29½	36½
CU	600	34½	48½	55½	6	22½	27
(*626½)	650	8	22	32	30	50½	55
ICI	700	39½	51	61	6	22½	27
(*730)	750	11	23½	35½	27	49	53½
Kingfishr	500	32	46½	51½	4	15	23½
(*529)	550	6	20	26½	28½	41	50
Land Sec	600	12½	28	34½	10	17	29½
(*601½)	650	0½	8	13	48½	51	62
M & S	420	24½	36	41½	2½	7	12½
(*440)	460	3½	14½	20	22	26	32
Nat West	650	21½	33½	46	12½	35½	42½
(*655)	700	4	15	26	46	69	74
Sainsbury	360	15½	27	31	4½	10	16
(*369)	390	2½	11½	16½	22	25½	32
Shell	800	48	62	66½	1½	12	16
(*842½)	850	11½	28	36	16	32½	38
Smkl Bch	650	46	61	74	2½	12	18
(*689)	700	13	30½	44½	19½	32	39
Storehse	330	19	28	35½	4½	9½	14
(*342)	360	4	13	20½	20	25	29
Trafalgar	20	5½	8	9	1	2	3
(*24½)	25	3	6	7	3	4½	6
Unilever	1300	34½	60	76	11	31½	40½
(*1330)	1350	11½	32	50	36	57½	66½
Zeneca	1250	38½	72½	95	28½	57½	72
(*1253½)	1300	17	50	72	57	86½	100

Series		Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	36½	44½	53½	8	12	18
(*453)	460	13	23	32½	27	30½	37
Ladbroke	140	17	20½	25½	6	11	13½
(*149½)	160	8	12	17	16½	22	24½
Utd Bisc	240	20	24½	28	5½	11	14
(*252)	260	9½	14½	18½	14½	21½	24½

December 15, 1995 Tot: 47302 Call: 31779 Put: 15523 FT-SE Call: 3308 Put: 5138
*Underlying security price.

Series		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	460	13½	27½	35½	7	13	19½
(*466)	500	0½	10	16½	34½	37	41
Thames W	550	22	40	47½	9	17½	32
(*560)	600	4½	19	25½	41	46	61

Series		Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	550	27	32	41	16½	30½	39
(*552)	600	10	14	22	50½	64	70½
BTR	300	27	30	34½	2½	7	9
(*321½)	330	8½	12	18½	13½	21½	23½
Br Aero	750	56	69½	88½	14½	27½	35½
(*782)	800	28	45	62	36½	51½	59
Br Telcm	330	18½	25½	32½	8	10	17½
(*344½)	360	5	12	18	26½	27½	34½
Cadbury	500	58	64	72	4½	14½	19
(*547)	550	27	33½	44	21	35	40
Guinness	460	19	27	33	11½	22½	26
(*462)	500	5	11½	17	38½	49	51
GEC	300	25½	32	36½	2½	5½	9½
(*323)	330	8	14	19	15½	17½	23½
Hanson	180	12½	15	16½	3½	5	7½
(*188)	191	6	—	—	9	—	—
LASMO	160	19½	23	28	2	5	7
(*175½)	180	7½	11½	16½	9½	12½	15½
Lucas	160	20	24	26½	1½	4	5½
(*176)	180	7½	12	16	8½	12	14
Pilkingtn	191	16½	23	26½	4	5½	9
(*202½)	210	7½	12½	18½	13	13½	18½
Prudential	420	26	31	40	11½	22	26½
(*429½)	460	9½	14½	22½	35	46	50
Redland	360	28	36½	40½	6½	15	18
(*377½)	390	12	20½	25	20½	30½	33½
R-Royce	160	18½	21	25½	2	5½	7
(*174½)	180	6½	9½	14	10	15	16½
Tesco	280	21	25½	29½	5	9½	12½
(*293)	300	9½	14½	19	13½	19½	22
Vodafone	200	21½	27½	31½	4½	7	9
(*214½)	220	10	16½	21	13	15½	18
Williams	300	26½	32	33½	2	7	8½
(*321)	330	8	13½	16½	13½	21	23

FT-SE INDEX (*3644½)

	3500	3550	3600	3650	3700	3750
Calls						
Dec	144½	94½	44½			
Jan	149½	107	73	43	22	10
Feb	174	136	100½	70½	47	29½
Mar	192	153	121½	91½	67	47
Jun	234	—	167½	—	117½	—
Puts						
Dec				5½	55½	105½
Jan	11	19	33	55½	87½	129
Feb	22	34	49½	71	99	135
Mar	37	49	66½	87½	114½	146½
Jun	85½	—	116½	—	164½	—

Series		Calls Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
Abby Nat	600	37½	54½	63	0½	17	27
(*636½)	650	3	26½	37	17	42½	52½
Amstrad	220	9½	21½	28½	1	8	11
(*228½)	240	0½	12½	19	12	18½	21½
Barclays	750	25	48½	58½	2	25	34½
(*773)	800	1	22½	34½	28	53	62
Blue Circ	300	30	38	42	0	4	10½
(*329½)	330	3½	18½	23½	4	14½	23
Br Gas	220	10½	21	24½	0	6½	11
(*230)	240	0½	10½	14½	10	16	21½
Dixons	390	17	33½	43	1	13	17
(*405)	420	1½	18½	27½	16	26½	31½
Forte	330	5½	18½	22½	3½	10	16½
(*332)	360	0	5½	8½	28	29½	35½
Tarmac	100	2	9	12	1	6	9
(*102)	110	0½	5	7½	8	11½	15
Hillsdwn	160	2	8½	11	2½	7	13½
(*160)	180	0½	2½	3½	20	20½	27½
Lonrho	160	13	16	21	0	3½	6
(*172½)	180	1	5½	11	7½	13½	16
Sears	90	8½	11½	13	0	1½	3
(*98½)	100	1	5½	7	2	5	7½
Thrn Eml	1500	83½	118	154½	0	23	34
(*1581½)	1600	6½	60	96	24½	64	75
Tomkins	260	22	27	33½	0	5	7½
(*280½)	280	4½	14½	21½	3	13½	15½
TSB	390	15	21½	27	1	20½	22
(*404)	420	1	3	11½	16½	37½	40

Series		Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Glaxo Well	850	58	75½	88	3	20½	28½
(*899)	900	24	43½	59½	18½	41½	51
HSBC	1000	30	57½	72	24	57	67
(*1000)	1050	10½	36	51½	56½	87½	96½
Reuter	550	50	63½	74	2½	13	18
(*595)	600	15½	32	44½	18	32½	39

Series		Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Royal Ins	360	27½	37	43½	3	17	22
(*381½)	390	10	21½	29	15½	33	38

Series		Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Fisons	260	4½	8½	10	0½	0½	0½
(*260)	280	0	0	0	16	16	16

Series		Feb	May		Feb	May	
Eastern Gp	950	29	39	—	0½	0½	—
(*974)	1000	0½	0½	—	30½	30	—

Series		Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Natl Pwr	420	15½	30	41	1	8	18½
(*434½)	460	0	10½	20½	25½	29	39
Scot Pwr	360	5	15	23½	2½	15	17
(*362)	390	0	5	11	28	35	36½

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 80523	Dec 95	3660.0	3686.0	3656.0	3676.0	6026
	Mar 96	3684.0	3705.0	3651.0	3657.0	15413
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3585	Dec 95				3965.0	0
	Mar 96				3990.0	0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 402039	Dec 95	93.50	93.51	93.49	93.49	6066
	Mar 96	93.83	93.85	93.82	93.84	6913
	Jun 96	94.01	94.04	94.01	94.03	4748
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 110	Dec 95				94.22	0
	Mar 96				94.62	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1009153	Dec 95	96.15	96.15	96.12	96.13	18621
	Mar 96	96.45	96.45	96.41	96.42	25952
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 150478	Dec 95	111-16	111-26	111-10	111-09	5544
	Mar 96	110-27	111-14	110-27	110-28	39599
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	121.93	121.98	121.85	121.88	960
	Jun 96				120.42	0
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 215595	Mar 96	99.12	99.54	99.07	99.27	92058
	Jun 96	98.70	98.80	98.65	98.61	650
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 20578	Dec 95	94.72	94.74	94.72	94.73	305
	Mar 96	94.94	94.96	94.93	94.96	646
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 51903	Dec 95	98.13	98.16	98.10	98.15	2724
	Mar 96	98.29	98.33	98.26	98.29	4629
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 48162	Mar 96	105.75	106.75	105.52	106.47	41350
	Jun 96	105.70	105.70	105.70	106.07	130

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6½ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¾ Low 6½ Week fixed: [illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible] ; 3 mth [illegible] . Sell: 2 mth [illegible] ; 3 mth: [illegible] .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 6½, close 6¼ .

Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.79	n/a	5.68	5.55	5.50
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applctn: £4,556m allotted: £1,000m; Bids: £98.46% received: 71%; Last week: £98.445% received: 48%; Avge rate: £6.1751% last wk £6.2281%; Next week: £1,000m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	5¼-5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $386.20-386.50 Close: $385.75-386.25 High: $386.20-386.50
Low: $385.20-385.70 AM: $385.70 PM: $386.20

Krugerrand: $386.00-388.00 (£250.00-252.00)

Platinum: $404.25 (£262.40) **Silver:** $5.14 (£3.335) **Palladium:** $130.75 (£84.90)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 15	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4809-2.4894	2.4848-2.4881	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	45.56-45.73	45.61-45.71	12-9pr	33-27pr
Copenhagen	8.5910-8.6280	8.5980-8.6200	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	0.9663-0.9700	0.9670-0.9696	11-7pr	25-21pr
Frankfurt	2.2170-2.2238	2.2192-2.2225	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	232.32-233.38	232.63-233.25	38-51ds	122-143ds
Madrid	188.57-189.37	189.08-189.37	41-50ds	123-140ds
Milan	2450.8-2464.7	2450.8-2454.8	8-9ds	24-26ds
Montreal	2.1141-2.1187	2.1143-2.1173	0.13-0.05pr	0.23-0.11pr
New York	1.5376-1.5408	1.5388-1.5398	0.09-0.07pr	0.27-0.24pr
Oslo	9.7850-9.8210	9.8010-9.8160	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	7.6300-7.6640	7.6360-7.6500	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	10.175-10.247	10.175-10.198	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	156.82-157.40	157.14-157.40	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	15.598-15.651	15.614-15.641	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	1.7890-1.7952	1.7890-1.7918	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3495-1.3513
Austria	10.15-10.16
Belgium (Com)	29.65-29.69
Canada	1.3755-1.3760
Denmark	5.5916-5.5936
France	4.9652-4.9672
Germany	1.4437-1.4440
Hong Kong	7.7343-7.7353
Ireland	1.5889-1.5909
Italy	1594.20-1595.70
Japan	102.05-102.10
Malaysia	2.5440-2.5450
Netherlands	1.6162-1.6172
Norway	6.3713-6.3798
Portugal	151.42-151.52
Singapore	1.4162-1.4172
Spain	122.97-123.02
Sweden	6.6312-6.6412
Switzerland	1.1645-1.1655

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5405-1.5430
Australia dollar	2.0765-2.0793
Bahrain dinar	0.5740-0.5860
Brazil real*	1.4946-1.4988
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7000-0.7100
Finland markka	6.6300-6.7460
Greece drachma	363.25-370.25
Hong Kong dollar	11.8977-11.9069
India rupee	53.33-54.29
Indonesia rupiah	3484.00-3552.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4565-0.4665
Malaysia ringgit	3.9134-3.9175
New Zealand dollar	2.3583-2.3623
Pakistan rupee	52.62 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5425-5.6665
Singapore dollar	2.1788-2.1818
S Africa rand (com)	5.5930-5.6950
U A E dirham	5.5925-5.7165

Barclays Bank GTS * *Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3I	1,500	Lloyds Bk	9,400
ASDA Gp	12,000	London Elec	2,000
Abbey Ntl	6,200	Marks Spr	4,300
Allied Dom	5,000	Mid Elec	1,000
Argyll Gp	3,500	NatWst Bk	10,000
Arjo Wggns	5,900	Nat Grid	20,000
AB Foods	1,300	Nat Power	4,000
BAA	9,400	NW Water	1,500
BAT Inds	13,000	P & O	4,000
BOC	1,700	Pearson	1,400
BP	16,000	PowerGen	6,000
BSkyB	2,900	Prudential	4,700
BTR	7,300	REXAM	3,700
BT	13,000	RMC	693
Bk of Scot	12,000	RTZ	2,000
Barclays	14,000	Rank Org	7,100
Bass	3,300	Reckitt Col	3,500
Blue Circle	2,100	Redland	3,000
Boots	1,900	Reed Intl	5,200
BAe	1,900	Rentokil	2,100
BA	2,400	Reuters	3,500
Brit Gas	16,000	Rolls Royce	4,500
Brit Steel	8,400	Royal Ins	2,400
Burmah Cstl	548	Ryl Bk Scot	10,000
Cable Wire	9,400	Sainsbury	3,800
Cadbury	3,500	Schroders	166
Carlton Cms	1,200	Scot & New	2,000
Cm Union	3,000	Scot Power	1,800
Cookson	3,000	Sears	14,000
Courtaulds	3,000	Svrn Trent	901
De La Rue	9,800	Shell Trans	20,000
Enterpr Oil	2,600	Siebe	1,200
Forte	9,200	SmKl Bch	9,300
GKN	799	Smith Nph	1,800
GRE	4,100	Sthern Elec	622
GUS	1,900	Std Chartd	10,000
Gen Acc	1,100	Sun Allnce	1,300
Gen Elec	8,700	TI Gp	3,200
Glaxo Well	6,300	TSB	7,800
Granada	1,300	Tate & Lyle	858
Grand Met	4,700	Tesco	4,000
Guinness	3,500	Thames W	659
HSBC	3,500	Thrn EMI	1,100
Hanson	20,000	Tomkins	5,300
ICI	2,100	Unilever	2,000
Kingfisher	2,100	Vodafone	17,000
LASMO	4,000	Whitbread	1,200
Ladbroke	3,300	Wilms Hld	1,100
Land Secs	900	Wolseley	2,300
Legal & Gn	4,600	Zeneca	4,300

WALL STREET

	Dec 15 midday	Dec 14 close
AMP Inc	38¼	39¼
AMR Corp	76¼	76¼
AT & T	67½	66½
Abbott Labs	41¼	41¼
Advanced Micro	18¼	18¼
Aetna Life	70½	69½
Ahmanson (HF)	26½	26
Air Prod & Chem	54½	55½
AirTouch Comm	27½	26½
Alberto-Culver B	36	35½
Albertson's	33½	33½
Alcan Aluminum	32	32
Alco Standard	46½	46½
Allied Signal	48½	48½
Alum Co of Am	55½	54½
Amax Gold Inc	7½	7½
Amerada Hess	50½	50½
Amer Brands	46¼	45½
Amer El Power	39½	39
Amer Express	42½	42½
Amer Genl Corp	33½	33¼
Amer Home Pr	98½	98½
Amer Intl	94½	93½
Amer Stores	27	26½
Amer Standard	31¼	31¼
Ameritech	58½	58½
Amoco	70½	70½
Anheuser-Busch	67	67
Apple Computer	35¼	38½
Archer Daniels	17¼	17¼
Armco	5½	5½
Armstrng Wrld	62½	63½
Asarco	31¼	31¼
Ashland Oil	35½	35½
Atl Richfield	113¼	113½
Auto Data Pro	74	74
Avery Dennison	49	48½
Avon Products	77½	78
Baker Hughes	23½	23½
Baltim Gas & El	27½	27½
Banc One	38	37½
BankAmerica	64½	63½
Bank of NY	47½	46½
Bankers Tr NY	69	68½
Barnett Banks	59½	58½
Bausch & Lomb	40½	39½
Baxter Intl	42½	42½
Bectn Dicknsn	74½	74½
Bell Atlantic	67½	66½
Bell Industries	21¼	21¼
BellSouth	42½	42½
Black & Decker	35½	36½
Block (H&R)	43	43
Boeing	75½	73½
Boise Cascade	32½	33
Bristol Myrs Sq	86½	86½
Browning Ferris	29	29½
Brunswick	21½	21½
Burlington Nthn	77½	78½
CNA Financial	115	114
CPC Intl	73½	74½
CSX	87½	88½
Campbell Soup	60½	60½
Can Pacific	17¼	17½
Cptl Cities ABC	124½	124½
Carolina Pwr	33½	33½
Caterpillar	62	62
Central & SW	27½	27½
Champion Intl	41½	41½
Chase Manhat	60	60½
Chemical Bk	58½	58½
Chevron Corp	51¼	51½
Chrysler	53½	53½
Chubb Corp	99	97½
Cigna Corp	107½	105½
Citicorp	65½	64
Clorox	76½	76½
Coastal Corp	36½	35½
Coca Cola	79	79
Colgate-Palmolive	76	76½
Columbia Gas	43½	43½
ColumbiaHCA	51½	51½
Compaq Comp	44½	45½
Comp Ass Intl	59	60½
ConAgra	40½	40½
Conrail	70½	72
Cons Edison	30½	30½
Cons Nat Gas	45½	45½
Cooper Inds	36½	36½
CoreStates	37½	38
Corning Inc	30½	31½
Crown Cork	40½	41
Dana Corp	30½	30½
Dayton Hudson	72½	72½
Deere	34½	34½
Delta Air Lines	75½	76
Deluxe Corp	27½	27½
Detroit Edison	34½	34
Digital Equip	59½	60½
Dillard Dept St	28½	28½
Disney (Walt)	61½	60½
Dominion Res	41½	40½
Donelley (RR)	38	38
Dover Corp	36½	36½
Dow Chemical	70½	70½
Dow Jones	39½	39
Dresser	24½	24
Duke Power	46½	46½
Dun & Bradstreet	64½	64½
Du Pont	69½	69½

	Dec 15 midday	Dec 14 close
Eastman Kodak	68½	67½
Eaton Corp	53½	53½
Emerson Elec	79½	80½
Engelhard Corp	22½	22
Enron Corp	39½	38½
Entergy	27½	27½
Ethyl Corp	12½	12½
Exxon	81½	83
FMC Corp	71½	72½
FPL Group	45½	45
Federal Express	76½	76½
Fed Nat Mtge	113	111½
First Interstate	138	140
First Union Rlty	7½	7½
Fleet Finl Grp	39½	39½
Fluor Corp	67½	67½
Ford Motor	28½	28½
GTE Corp	44	43½
Gannett	61½	62
Gap Inc Del	46½	46½
Gen Dynamics	60½	60½
Gen Electric	72	71½
Gen Mills	57½	57½
Gen Motors	50½	50
Gen Reinsurance	154½	153
Gen Signal	32½	32½
Genuine Parts	41½	41½
Georgia Pac	68½	67½
Gillette	54½	54½
Glaxo Wellc ADR	27½	27½
Goodrich (BF)	67½	67
Goodyear Tire	44½	44½
Grace (W&R)	59½	58½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	23	22½
Great Wstn Fin	25½	24½
Halliburton	47½	47½
Harcourt General	41½	41½
Heinz (HJ)	34	34½
Hercules	57	56½
Hershey Foods	66½	65½
Hewlett Packard	76½	78
Hilton Hotels	62½	62½
Home Depot	44½	45½
Homestake Mng	15½	16
Honeywell	47½	46½
Household Intl	58½	58½
Houston Inds	23½	23½
Humana	26½	26½
ITT Corp	125½	125½
Illinois Tool	59½	59½
Illinova	28½	29
INCO	35½	35½
Ingersoll Rand	36½	36½
Inland Steel	25½	25½
Intel Corp	59½	60
IBM	91½	92½
Intl Flav & Fr	50½	50½
Intl Paper	35½	35½
James River Va	31½	31½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	91½	91½
Kellogg	79	79½
Kerr-McGee	60½	60½
Kimberly-Clark	78½	79½
Kmart	6½	7½
Knight-Ridder	63½	64½
Lilly (Eli)	103½	102½
Limited Inc	17½	17½
Lincoln Nat	51½	51½
Litton	42½	41½
Liz Claiborne	28½	28½
Lockheed Martin	77½	77½
Louisiana Pac	23½	23½
MCI Comm	26½	25½
Marriott Int	38½	38½
Marsh & McLnn	89½	89½
Masco Corp	29½	29½
May Dept St	43½	43½
Maytag Corp	20½	20½
McDonalds	46½	47½
McDonnell D	90½	90½
McGraw Hill	85½	85½
Mead Corp	51½	51½
Medtronic	57½	56½
Mellon Bk	53½	53½
Melville Corp	31½	31½
Merck Inc	66½	66½
Merrill Lynch	53½	52½
Microsoft	89½	88½
Minnesota Mine	67½	68½
Mobil Corp	113½	114½
Monsanto	117½	121½
Morgan (JP)	80	79½
Motorola Inc	58½	57½
Natl Semi	22½	22½
Natl Service Ind	32½	33½
Navistar Int	11½	11½
NY Times A	30½	30
Newmont Mng	42½	42½
Niag Mohawk	9½	9½
Nike B	62½	63
NL Industries	12½	12½
Noram Energy	8½	8½
Nordstrom	40½	40
Norfolk Sthrn	79½	80½
Nthn State Pwr	48½	48½
Norwest Corp	33½	33½
Nynex Corp	49½	49½
Occidental Pet	20½	20½
Ohio Edison	23½	23
Oracle	43½	41½

	Dec 15 midday	Dec 14 close
Oryx Energy Co	13½	13½
Owens Corning	44½	45
PPG Industries	45½	45½
PNC Bank	28½	28½
PP&L Res	25	24½
Paccar Inc	50½	49½
Pacificorp	20½	20½
Pac Enterprises	28½	28½
Pac Gas & Elect	28½	28½
Pac Telesis	33½	33½
Pall Corp	27½	27½
Panhandle East	28½	27½
Parker Hannifin	34½	34½
Peco Energy	29½	29½
Penney (JC)	47½	47½
Pennzoil	42	41½
Pepsico	57½	57½
Pfizer	66½	66½
Pharm & Upjhn	39	38½
Phelps Dodge	63	63½
Philip Morris	93½	93½
Phillips Pet	33½	33½
Pitney Bowes	47½	47½
Polaroid	47½	47½
PriceCostco	16½	16½
Procter & Gmbl	86½	86½
Providian	42½	42½
Pub Serv E & G	29½	29½
Quaker Oats	36½	35½
Ralston Purina	64½	64½
Raychem Corp	58½	58½
Raytheon	45½	46½
Reebok Intl	25½	25½
Reynolds Metals	57½	56½
Roadway Srvcs	50½	51
Rockwell Intl	51½	51½
Rohm & Haas	62½	62½
Royal Dutch	136½	137½
Rubbermaid	26½	26½
SBC Comms	57	57½
Safeco Corp	38½	37½
St Paul's Cos	57½	57½
Salomon Inc	35½	35½
Sara Lee Corp	33½	33½
Scecorp	16½	16½
Schering Plough	57½	57½
Schlumberger	68½	69½
Seagram	35½	36½
Sears Roebuck	40	40½
Shell Trans	79	80
Sherwin Wlms	39½	39½
Skyline Corp	18½	18½
Snap-On-Tools	44½	44½
Southern Co	24½	24
Sprint Corp	40½	40
Stanley Works	51½	51½
Sun Company	26½	27½
Sun Microsys	44	44½
Suntrust	68	66½
Supervalu	32½	32½
Sysco Corp	31½	31½
TRW Inc	74½	74½
TCC Inds	2½	2½
Tandem Comp	11½	11½
Tandy Corp	37½	40½
Teledyne	24½	24½
Temple Inland	44½	44½
Tenneco	48½	48½
Texaco	79½	79½
Texas Inst	49½	52½
Texas Utilities	39½	39½
Textron	73½	73½
Time Warner	39	39½
Times-Mirror A	34½	34½
Timken	39½	39½
Torchmark	44	43½
Toys R Us	23½	23½
Transamerica	79½	79½
Travelers	61½	61½
Tribune	62½	62½
Tyco Labs	33	32½
UST Inc	35½	35½
UAL	202½	202½
US Inds	17½	17½
USX Marathon	19½	19½
Unicom	32½	32½
Unilever NV	141½	140½
Union Camp	46	46½
Union Carbide	38½	38½
Union Pacific	67½	67½
Unisys Corp	5½	5½
USAir Group	12½	12½
USF&G Corp	17½	17½
US Life	29½	30½
United Tech	94½	95½
Unocal Corp	28½	28½
VF Corp	52½	52½
WMX Tech	29½	28½
Wal-Mart Stores	23½	23½
Warner-Lambert	94½	94½
Wells Fargo	215½	219½
Westinghouse El	15½	15½
Weyerhaeuser	42	42
Whirlpool	55	55½
Whitman	23½	23½
Winn Dixie	36½	36½
Woolworth	14½	14½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	51½	51½
Xerox	135	135½
Yellow Corp	12½	12½

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WALL STREET 29

The year that the bulls reigned supreme

WEEKEND MONEY

UNIT TRUSTS 31

The good, the bad, and the nightmares

Loyalty is on test at Tessa time

Marianne Curphey assesses the options for those with five-year investments soon to mature

Banks and building societies would have us believe they are falling over each other to offer the best rates to savers despite the Chancellor's decision to trim base rates. In reality, savers who locked in to fixed rates of between 9 and 12 per cent several years ago will have a shock when seeking a new home for their money.

So too will many Tax Exempt Special Savings Accounts (Tessas) customers, whose five-year plans are due to mature from January 2 with a total value of £21 billion.

The best Tessa rates on offer are all under 8 per cent, while the lowest are about 4 per cent — a stark contrast to headline rates when Tessas were launched in January 1991 and institutions offered up to 15 per cent on variable rates.

For a new investor, and those with up to £9,000 to reinvest in a second Tessa, choosing a fixed-rate account is a gamble. By locking in to a rate of about 7 per cent, you are effectively betting that interest rates will fall and stay low for the next five years. If they rise, you will be left with a poor return on your money.

Banks and building societies face the same problem, only in reverse. If they fix a rate too high, they will spend half a decade paying savers well above the market rate. Too low, and no one will bother to deposit money.

Some, like the Nationwide building society, have chosen to steer clear of fixed-rate Tessas until money market conditions look easier to predict. Others, like Abbey National, have tried a compromise by offering a fixed rate plus a guarantee that if interest rates rise by at least 1 per cent in a year, Tessa buyers will be paid a 1 per cent bonus.

With all the uncertainty, investors might be tempted to wait. However, an estimated 60 per cent of Tessas mature before June and savers have only six months in which to reinvest in order to enjoy the tax-free benefits.

Maturing Tessas are worth up to £12,000 on maturity, of which £9,000 can be transferred to a new Tessa. The accumulated interest, which may be as much as £3,000, is tax-free but cannot be reinvested in a Tessa.

The Nationwide, which is currently keeping its variable interest rate at 6.6 per cent, is one of a number of societies offering loyalty bonuses to existing customers. They will get an extra 1 per cent of their total capital at the end of five years, on top of the variable rate.

Bradford & Bingley is giving a 0.75 per cent per cent bonus to existing customers on top of its variable rate, which at present would provide a total return of 7.5 per cent on a balance of £9,000.

Tessa II customers transferring from other societies get a 0.5 bonus annually, currently equivalent to an interest rate of 7.25 per cent on £9,000.

Next year also sees the launch of a new breed of more complex Tessa products, some linked to the FT-SE index and a far cry from the simple deposit-type account John Major envisaged when, as Chancellor, he launched them in 1991. The Abbey National is introducing a guaranteed-growth Tessa, which offers a fixed return of 141 per cent on the balance at the end of five years, plus a 1 per cent annual bonus if interest rates rise.

The HSBC's . fixed-rate Tessa will pay out 5 per cent interest a year, plus an additional bonus if the FT-SE index rises by 55 per cent. The maximum interest earned would be £4,950 on £9,000. Over the last five years, the FT-SE index rose by just under 74 per cent.

The Bristol & West's new guaranteed equity Tessa is even more complicated, and promises to pay 4 per cent interest per year or the equivalent of the average rise in the FT-SE 100 index between June 27, 2000 and December 27, 2000.

IZHAR COHEN

Chasing after that elusive interest rate: savers will be disappointed with the low returns on offer

Lenders scramble to cut rates

Lenders are desperately trying to undercut the variable mortgage rates of their competitors to attract new customers into a dead housing market following this week's base rate cut. Some major players waited until the end of the week to see how their rivals reacted to the quarter-point cut before making a move themselves (Sara McConnell writes).

Cheltenham & Gloucester, the fourth-largest lender, announced yesterday that its rate for new borrowers would be 7.24 per cent from December 18, down from 7.73 per cent. After its takeover by Lloyds Bank, the C&G tried to mollify angry borrowers excluded from bonus payments by guaranteeing them a rate at least 0.25 per cent below the average equivalent charged by the other five top lenders.

Existing borrowers get a similar guarantee. Their rate falls to 7.48 per cent on February 1 and to 7.24 per cent on March 1, as long as competitors' rates stay unchanged. On a £50,000 loan, a cut from 7.73 to 7.24 per cent will reduce monthly payments from £228.68 to £214.18.

The C&G uses the variable mortgage rates of the Halifax, Nationwide, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester and the Abbey National when calculating rates. The Halifax's new rate is 7.74 per cent, down from 7.49 per cent, effective immediately for new borrowers and from February 1 for existing borrowers.

The society's one million customers on annual review will have the rate cuts included when payments are recalculated in February. But more than 300,000 customers on annual review at the former Leeds Building Society, now part of the Halifax, will have to ask for the new rates to be included in their payment. Nationwide has undercut the Halifax by reducing its rate to 7.44 per cent for new borrowers immediately and for existing borrowers from February 1.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

OTHER TESSAS

THE Woolwich has a variable-rate Tessa paying a bonus of 0.25 per cent on top of the rate paid to first-timers. For £9,000, the variable rate is 7.05 per cent, with bonus. Cheltenham & Gloucester is paying one rate, 7.75 per cent, to all, whether or not their first Tessa was with C&G.

Bristol & West will pay 1 per cent of the first year's contributions to existing Tessa holders who register before their current Tessa matures. It also has a rising-rate Tessa.

Abbey National has a variable-rate Tessa of up to 6.6 per cent; a fixed-rate paying 7 per cent yearly plus 1 per cent bonus if rates rise, and a guaranteed-growth. Barclays has a variable 6.5 per cent at £25 minimum; a 7 per cent fixed for one year on £3,000 minimum or 7.5 per cent fixed for five on £7,500. Lloyds has 6.75 per cent variable.

Savers fear lower rates

Savers are braced for another interest-rate cut before Christmas. More fixed-rate investments were withdrawn this week by banks and building societies and either replaced with lower rates or not replaced. This week's base-rate cut will add to the heavy downward pressure on savers' rates after the post-Budget mortgage cut. This takes effect in the new year for existing borrowers.

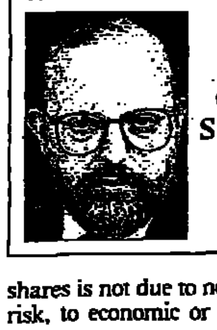
And, in an admission that for many savers will add insult to injury, some building societies say they are not under the same pressure to offer savers a good deal as they once were. The Building Societies Association said: "People are juggling around with mortgage rates but on the savings side, they think they have got it about right. There's no pressure". The Portman Building Society abandoned plans for a fixed-rate investment with higher rates than its other accounts because it was getting plenty of money in anyway. Low mortgage demand slows outflow of savings and there is little competition from other areas such as National Savings or unit trusts, while the possibility of a payout from a building society takeover is an incentive. Savers put £702 million into building societies in October.

The Woolwich, the Midland and the TSB have all withdrawn fixed-rate bonds this week and replaced them with others paying up to a percentage point less. Mortgage rates across the industry have, by contrast, fallen by just 0.25 per cent, giving societies and banks a comfortable margin between what they pay out and what they take in. They say the new rates reflect lower rates in the wholesale money markets. The Woolwich's new two-year bond pays 6.15 per cent gross on balances of between £1,000 and £24,000 and 6.3 per cent on balances of £25,000 and above. The society's previous bond was paying 6.5 per cent and 6.75 per cent respectively. TSB has cut its one-year fixed-term deposit-account rate by half a percentage point to 6.5 per cent on balances of £2,000 and over. Its stepped bond, which pays annual rising rates for three years, is now paying just 7.25 per cent gross in the third year, down from 8 per cent before. Midland has cut rates on its high-interest deposit bond by up to one percentage point over terms of between six months and three years.

SARA McCONNELL

Pattern of state betrayal

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Next year, the Treasury is planning to sell another vital monopoly utility to the public. Anyone investing for the long term should almost certainly avoid Railtrack like the plague.

When ideological ministers, consumer groups or Her Majesty's Opposition make helpful suggestions about the future of privatised utilities, they make one sweeping assumption. Investors, they say, have done fantastically well out of these companies. Now it is time for other priorities to take over. But is this really true?

Takeovers of regional electricity companies have certainly been profitable for shareholders. But if you had subscribed for £1,000 of British Telecom shares when they were floated eleven years ago, your holding would now be worth about £2,200. That doesn't sound bad. But if you had invested £10 in each constituent of the FT-SE 100 index, as many pension funds do, your £1,000 would now be worth more than £3,000.

BT has been a poor investment. But British Gas has been worse. Had you subscribed for £1,000 worth of British Gas shares in the autumn of 1986 and held on to them, they would now be worth less than £1,600. If you had put your money in the index, your investment would now be worth £2,250, 45 per cent more than an investment in British Gas. For loyal long-term shareholders, British Gas has become a dog.

This matters for two reasons. First, more of us hold shares on BT and Gas than any other privatised groups. Second, the poor performance of these shares is not due to normal commercial risk, to economic or market forces, or even to poor management. It is due to the Government and its appointed regulators changing their own rules.

Short-term speculators did well out of BT and fairly well out of Gas. Like other utilities, both companies also performed better than average during the recession. Since then, however, BT has been given extremely tough price controls. Investors must accept that. But BT's low prices undermine any incentive people might have to switch to the competing suppliers the Government and its regulator are so keen to encourage. So they devise ever more desperate schemes to foist competition on the public. The latest, endorsed by the monopolies watchdog this week, forces BT shareholders to subsidise uncompetitive rivals to take their business.

At British Gas, that would seem gentlemanly. Annoyed at the failure of competitors to snatch the company's trade with industrial customers, the Government simply ordered it to give them its business. Worse was to come. Before privatisation, the Government built a 25-year monopoly of household supply into the Gas Act and the company's licence, obliging it to ensure adequate supplies. Later, egged on by Ofgas, ministers changed their minds. The monopoly was to go in 2002, and then in 1998, and is now to be removed on a rolling basis from next year. British Gas, having to think long term, has contracts to buy £40 billion of gas at well above likely prices. It could easily lose £3 billion. Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator and Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, who are responsible, now wring their hands. The regulator warns the City that the future of British Gas is in doubt. Mr Eggar, who rated gas contracts sacrosanct when shutting the pits, wants North Sea gas suppliers to tear up their contracts voluntarily.

Sadly, the new management brought in to modernise British Gas has proved so incompetent that it has lost all sympathy from customers just when it needs their loyalty. Shareholders might just as well press the board to call in receivers for its supply businesses and decline to support them.

Remember this when the marketing folk try to sell you Railtrack. The railways make losses. If things go wrong, the pressure will be on Railtrack's charges to keep services up and keep burgeoning subsidies down. Speculators might still make a killing. Long-term investors can confidently expect another betrayal.

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Karen Zagor on the hidden costs of your seasonal spending spree

Can credit cater for Christmas?

MARY EVANS

Festive excess: creating the perfect Christmas on credit can prove more expensive than you realise over the long term

In the mad rush to buy presents in the nine days to Christmas, it is tempting to put your purchases on plastic and worry about paying them off later. But this is the worst way of inflating the cost of Christmas, as a quick look at the true cost of paying off credit card debt reveals.

It is easy to forget that credit card debt is cumulative. Not only are you paying interest on the actual purchase, you are paying interest on the interest until the debt is paid off.

In addition, when you pay off your credit card, you are using money that has already been taxed. Unlike mortgage payments, where you get some interest relief, you get no help with the interest on your credit card. A higher rate taxpayer with a £100 credit card interest bill would have to earn £166.67 gross to pay it. A lower rate taxpayer with the same debt would have to earn £133.33 before tax.

The longer you have your credit card debt, the more expensive it becomes. At Barclaycard, which this week reduced its interest charges to 1.63 per cent a month, a £1,000 spending spree would result in an interest bill of £194 if the cardholder made minimal monthly payments but kept pushing the debt to £1,000 over twelve months. In other words, a higher rate taxpayer would have to earn £323 before tax, while a lower rate taxpayer would have to earn £258 to cover the interest payments. This is without even making a dent in the £1,000 debt.

To put the numbers in context, a higher rate taxpayer earning £30,000 would lose 1.1 per cent of their gross earnings to credit card debt, while someone earning £18,000 would lose 1.4 per cent.

Even at the Royal Bank of Scotland, whose Mastercard offers an unusually low monthly rate of 1.14 per cent, cumulative interest payments can take a big bite out of earnings. A steady balance of £1,000 over 12 months would result in interest charges of about £137. A higher rate taxpayer would need pre-tax income of £228 to pay this. A lower rate taxpayer would need to earn over £182.

Elizabeth Phillips, Director of the Credit Card Research Group, says: "Credit cards are the cheapest and most effective way of borrowing in the short-term. But if you can't pay your debt after about six months, you should be looking at a personal loan. Quite often, your credit card issuer will transfer the debt it into a personal loan and they may have a rate which is more cost effective than the credit card over the long term."

What's in an APR?

☐ The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is the standard figure used by credit card issuers to indicate how much interest you would pay on your card debt over a year. This should be a good way of comparing card costs. During the early 1990s, the high street banks and bigger building societies agreed to quote APRs on the same basis, including the monthly interest rate compounded and any charges.

Unfortunately, not all issuers include the same things in their APRs, making comparison difficult. The European Union (EU) is now trying to standardise APRs across the union. When calculating how much you will actually pay, it is better to use the monthly rate.

What about the interest-free period?

☐ Most issuers offer a grace period between the date of purchase and the date when they start adding interest to your bill. Card users who repay their debt in full before the end of this period are actually getting something for nothing, since they are effectively borrowing money for free. The bulk of issuers offer an interest free period of up to 56 days. Some issuers, like Barclays, Lloyds and NatWest, charge interest from the date the item is charged to the account if the balance is not paid in full each month. Others, such as Alliance & Leicester and MBNA International, charge from the date of purchase if the account is not cleared each month. Not every issuer offers a grace period. Interest starts accumulating on the Royal Bank of Scotland's Mastercard from the date on which the item is charged to the account, even when the account is cleared every month.

Annual Fees

☐ Fees range from nothing on the MBNA International Mastercard and Visa cards to £12 for a NatWest Visa card to £20 for a Hoare & Co Visa card. Gold cards have higher annual fees. These should be taken into account if you are planning to switch or renew your credit cards.

Rolling Credit

☐ Credit cards, like overdrafts, are a form of rolling credit. They are not intended for long-term lending, and you must make a minimum payment each month. If you pay a fraction of the bill, you will still be charged interest on the entire purchase. So if you are close to being able to pay the account, it makes sense to stretch to the full payment if at all possible.

Other ways of payment

☐ If the interest on your overdraft is less than the rate on your credit card, it makes sense to dip into overdraft to pay off the card. But there is no point running an overdraft and credit card debt simultaneously. Unauthorised overdrafts have punative interest rates, and once you are in overdraft there may be charges from everthing from check clearing to debit card use, so do not get into overdraft unless you know what you are getting into. If you are finding it impossible to pay off your Christmas costs, you should consider a personal loan. Direct Line offers rates ranging from 13.6 to 17.7 per cent on loans repayable over one to five years to existing customers and people with comprehensive motor insurance. Most personal loans have a fixed repayments period. The Co-Op Bank has a new flexible loan with a variable rate of 12.6 per cent where the borrower can decide how long they want the loan for. When looking at personal loans, ask about arrangement fees and payment protection insurance, which can inflate costs.

Beware of Christmas Card thieves

☐ Last December, 155,000 plastic cards went missing, according to Card Watch, the campaign to reduce plastic card theft and fraud. In the Christmas crush, it is easy to become a victim. Card Watch advises never leaving plastic cards unattended in jackets, cars or bags. Cheque books should be kept apart from plastic cards. If your card goes missing, report the loss to your bank or building society immediately. Even if a thief uses your card, you should not have to pay more than £50 unless you were grossly negligent.

Source: Money Facts

A QUESTION OF MONEY

Court clears up uncertainty on mortgage cover

Q What is mortgage indemnity insurance?

A A housebuyer who wants a loan for more than 75 per cent of the property's value must pay for mortgage indemnity insurance, which pays out to the lender if the borrower defaults and the property has to be sold for less than the mortgage.

Q What happens when a lender makes a mortgage indemnity claim?

A The insurer whose policy has paid out can then chase the borrower for that money.

If the payout under the policy does not cover the whole shortfall, lenders can chase borrowers for the outstanding debt.

Either your lender or the insurer can take legal action against you to recover the shortfall if you do not repay it voluntarily.

Q Does mortgage indemnity enable me to escape negative equity?

A A landmark High Court case this week decided that mortgage indemnity does not allow borrowers to escape from negative equity.

The case centred around the Woolwich Building Society, which was pursuing a former borrower for the shortfall which had arisen after the sale of his property by the society.

The former borrower raised the issue of the mortgage indemnity guarantee in his defence, and claimed that any payment made to the society, by the insurer, should be deducted from the amount which he owed to the society.

However, Mr Justice Waller ruled that the borrower derived no benefit from the mortgage indemnity guarantee and was liable to the society for the full amount of the debt.

"The defendant is not entitled to any credit for any sum paid or payable by the insurers," Mr Justice Waller said.

Frank Bartlett, Woolwich Building Society's head of lending, said after the case: "This ruling fully clarifies the position and leaves borrowers, and their advisers, in no doubt of the purpose of the mortgage indemnity guarantee which is solely to provide the lender with additional security."

Q Why was this ruling so important?

A The issue has been in dispute for some time, although the Council of Mortgage Lenders has always insisted that mortgage indemnity guarantees cover only lenders, not borrowers, and that, by handing your property back to your lender, a process known as "voluntary surrender", you will still have to repay any shortfall.

However, a controversial Southend debt counsellor, Union Finance, promised last year to free borrowers from their negative equity by exploiting a loophole in mortgage indemnity policies taken out to cover the loan.

Until this week there had been no cases before the courts which gave a binding legal precedent.

Q So I can't hand in my keys and walk away from my debt?

A The Council of Mortgage Lenders warns homeowners not to heed advisers who tell them they can escape their debt by turning over their property to the lender and relying on their mortgage indemnity guarantee to cover the cost.

It says if you have mortgage arrears or are in negative equity and wish to move, you should talk directly to your lender and try to come to a mutually-agreeable conclusion.

In addition, you should beware of running away from debt, because your hope of obtaining another mortgage, or any other form of credit in the future may be severely reduced as a result.

Your name may be blacklisted or placed on the Council of Mortgage Lenders' possessions register which most lenders check before granting a mortgage.

Flatowners take fight for leasehold reform to Commons

Grant and Patricia Sutherland: dispute

Hundreds of flat owners are to besiege the House of Commons today, demanding an end to the current system of leasehold which they claim operates unfairly against them.

Members of the Campaign Against Residential Leasehold Abuse (Carla) will hand in a letter to MPs. The Leasehold Enfranchisement Association (LEA) sent a letter to David Curry, Housing Minister, earlier this week, demanding eventual abolition of leasehold tenure.

The letters are part of a gathering storm of protest against inadequate laws to protect leaseholders, highlighted in *The Times* and elsewhere. Many flat owners who have bought their homes on long leases receive large bills for service charges and are threatened by their landlord with forfeiture of their lease if they refuse to pay.

Landlords threaten court action against leaseholders wanting to buy the freehold. Existing laws cannot prevent freeholds changing hands without tenants being told, let alone given their legal right of first refusal.

Carla, which has attracted 4,000 members since formation, says in its letter: "A ground rent freehold can be acquired for a nominal sum... the freeholder is then able to appoint himself as the managing agent for the property... and charge a management fee as a percentage of total expenditure on the property. Typically, the unscrupulous freeholder will then set in train a major programme of repairs... for which lessees are contractually obliged to pay... bills may amount to 40 per cent or 50 per cent of the leaseholder's salary."

The association wants the forthcoming Housing Bill to give leaseholders a right to manage their property or appoint an agent. It would be up to the landlord to prove they should not. Carla also calls for a closing of the loophole whereby no sanctions exist for landlords selling a freehold over the heads of leaseholders. Restrictions that exclude many leaseholders from qualifying to buy their freehold should also be removed, says Carla. Such measures would be a prelude to abolition of leasehold tenure and its replacement by a simpler system of commonhold.

One leaseholder who feels the current law fails him is Grant Sutherland. The freeholder of his west London flat is Harold John Bebbington, a professional landlord. Two years after Mr Sutherland and his wife, Patricia, bought their one-bedroom flat in 1987, Mr Bebbington took over a management company set up to manage the property owned by Mr Sutherland and his fellow tenants. Mr Sutherland claims that Mr Bebbington acquired the company behind leaseholders' backs and they are witholding service charges on the grounds that Mr Bebbington does not have a right to any payment but ground rent and insurance premiums. In a letter to Mr Sutherland, Mr Bebbington rejects the leaseholders' allegations: "The fact of the matter is that the lessees have failed to maintain the management company and consequently there was no party to the leases responsible for the maintenance of the property." He says the company went into receivership and reverted to the Crown, from which he bought it. He has served notices causing the leases of Mr Sutherland and the other tenants to be technically forfeited as security for service charge money owed. The Sutherlands cannot sell the flat and have had to rent a larger home.

SARA MCCONNELL

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

Unique Investment Opportunities from HM Treasury

A novelty that's worn off

COMMENT

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Personal Finance Writer

We all know fashion is fickle, but no one who snapped up the must-buy investment of last season — European privatisation — expected its novelty to wear off so quickly.

What was hailed as a brave new issue has turned out to be a cautionary tale of 150,000 disappointed private investors. Such had been the huge success of privatisations like British Airways, British Gas and British Telecom that fund managers had begun looking further afield for ripe pickings.

Two years ago, nowhere looked more promising than continental Europe, where budding state sell-offs seemed to offer more of the same generous profits and easy money.

Amid much hype and clever marketing, two were launched: the Mercury European Privatisation Trust, and the Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation Trust.

Investors were only to happy to take a stake in the promise of new continental riches. Between them, the two trusts pulled in more than £1 billion from 150,000 investors who believed the good times could never end.

The Kleinwort Trust, launched first, was massively oversubscribed, pulling in £500 million. Mercury, however, followed close behind, mopping up the rest of the demand and attracting a further £580 million. Even the fund managers were surprised by the massive response.

Then disaster hit: within a matter of weeks US interest rates rose, markets began to fall, and the share price slid. Since the, the Mercury fund has made a small profit, while Kleinwort investors are still sitting on a loss.

So what went wrong? Investors made the mistake of rushing into a new issue when the market had been rising for some time and was close to its height. In addition, 1994 saw a huge number of investment trust launches — while 45 trusts were launched in the space of 12 months, 1995 has seen only a third as many.

The public was swept along by the new issue fever and fund managers were only too pleased to offer them more. The idea of European privatisation was appealing enough — it had worked in the UK, why not take advantage of opportunities almost as close to home? In addition it appeared to have none of the pitfalls of emerging markets, where investors were to be badly stung later in the year. The public poured its money into Europe, believing it would offer them a steady return backed by the possibility of big-time profits, without the speculative, rollercoaster ride of buying into trusts like those specialising in Latin American and Chinese companies.

Unfortunately, the timing was misjudged, and when the profits came more slowly than they had expected, many disappointed shareholders sold their stake. This depressed the share price further and widened the difference between the price at which shares were being traded on the money markets and the value of the trust's underlying assets (known as Net Asset Value).

While Kleinwort has been talking to institutions, Mercury has come up with a novel solution — a share buy-back scheme to reduce the discount at which the ordinary shares of the trust trade, and increase their NAV. Shareholders are being asked to approve the proposals in an extraordinary meeting on January 8. With this latest move, they must be hoping they are through the worst of the pain.

Savers fall victim once again

WHEN building societies merge or are taken over, someone is always left out in the cold when the cash and shares are eventually handed out. With the Lloyds Bank takeover of the Cheltenham and Gloucester building society, it was borrowers, savers of less than two years' standing and savers whose name was second on the account who lost out.

In an attempt to prevent a similar outcry, the Halifax has now brought out a share benefits leaflet, available to all its members. But though the Halifax's attempt to clarify matters is commendable, the 11-page guide to eligibility has so much small print and such complicated flow charts that the average saver or borrower will need to sit down with a stiff drink before ploughing through it.

The real culprit in this is the Building Societies Act. This piece of legislation was considered flawed when it was implemented and is lagging behind the frenzied activity seen in the sector during the last couple of years. Despite a new Act of Parliament last May, the rules on handing out bonuses are still devilishly complicated.

The Building Societies Commission defends this state of affairs by saying it prevents speculators from making a fast buck during takeovers. But the ultimate victims are solid, ordinary savers.

The year bulls reigned supreme on Wall Street

Richard Thomson
charts an
astonishing
year on
Wall Street

Some time in October even the most hardened bulls of the New York stock market began to wonder what was going on. It was not the kind of problem about which anyone could complain because only an idiot would not have been making money hand over fist.

Yet investors could not help wondering. When things are this good, just how long can they last?

Was the market, in short, too good to be true? It was natural to wonder since equities have had their most spectacular bull run on record.

It has hit more than 50 successive highs during the year, racing from 4,000 to more than 5,000 on the Dow Jones industrial average, the standard index for measuring market performance.

Last week, it surged beyond 5,200 — a level almost no one had predicted a year ago. That performance compares with the decades the Dow Jones industrial average took to reach 3,000 and the years it took to push above 4,000.

British investors in the United States would have done as well as anyone. The American market has outperformed that in the United Kingdom — and most of those in other European countries — while the relationship between the dollar and the pound has remained relatively stable, keeping foreign exchange risks to a minimum.

The reason for the great share surge in 1995 has mainly been the strong economic performance of the United States. "We've had falling interest rates and rapidly rising corporate proifts — and that's a potent combination," said Charles Blood, director of financial market analysis at Brown Brothers Harriman, a Wall Street broker.

After an upward move in interest rates early on, the market has anticipated a gradual fall for most of the year. Fed Funds, the overnight interest rate, has declined only slightly from 6.0 to 5.745 per cent, but that is largely because of the Federal Reserve Board of Banks' caution in not wanting to let inflation get its head in a strong economic climate.

Corporate profits, meanwhile, have steamed ahead. Quarter after quarter companies have reported profit rises of 20 per cent or more. This has meant that as share prices rose during the year, their actual valuations never seemed excessive.

For the market as a whole, prices are currently about 16 times historic earnings, which is not especially cheap but not particularly expensive either. (United States equities normally oscillate in a range between about 14 and 20 times earnings).

Faced with these conditions, Wall Street's biggest bears have been forced to switch sides and advise their clients to buy shares.

David Shulman of Salomon Brothers, who spent most of the year predicting doom and gloom for share prices and consequently managed to miss the last 1,300 points of the Dow Jones industrial average's rise, finally changed his tune last month.

Everyone is hoping for Microsofts of the future. Some may be, but some could be a speculative bubble

"The more I thought about it, the more I thought this market was really saying something different this time." He came to the conclusion that the market has undergone only three big shifts this century — in the 1950s when investors lost their fear of another Depression, in the 1970s when they saw that inflation and recession can occure simultaneously, and now.

This time, Shulman believes, the Federal Reserve Board has really conquered inflation, which changes all the old assumptions about market behaviour.

Inevitably, this sunny outlook has been darkened by a few clouds. In September the market took a tumble, which some thought was the beginning of a collapse. In fact it has turned out to be merely a temporary correction and the Dow Jones industrial average has more than regained its previous level.

More worrying, however, has been the high-technology sector which has led the stock market's charge for most of the year. "Software companies are a mania," said Mr Blood. "Many of these companies are still at the concept stage where they are not even producing much in the way of profit but their prices are still going through the roof."

The most startling example is the flotation of Netscape, a new company producing software for the Internet, which had never made a cent in profit when it hit the market last summer.

Launched at $28 a share, it soared to above $70 within a day and now stands at about $130, giving it a capitalisation of more than $7 billion — more than established computer groups such as Apple, and more than other stock market stalwarts such as Delta Airlines and General Dynamics. Its share price is at a fantastical 530 times earnings.

Everyone is hoping, of course, that such companies will turn out to be the Microsofts of the future. Some of them may be, but at the moment they look more like the focus of a speculative bubble.

For the rest of the market, however, the advances look pretty firmly based. So is it still a good time to pile into New York and fill your boots with United States equities? The answer is yes, although some care is advisable.

"Next year will be nothing like this year," predicts Gary Anderson, chief analyst at Anderson & Low, a stock market consultancy. "To a large extent, the easy money is behind us. The market is going to get very volatile."

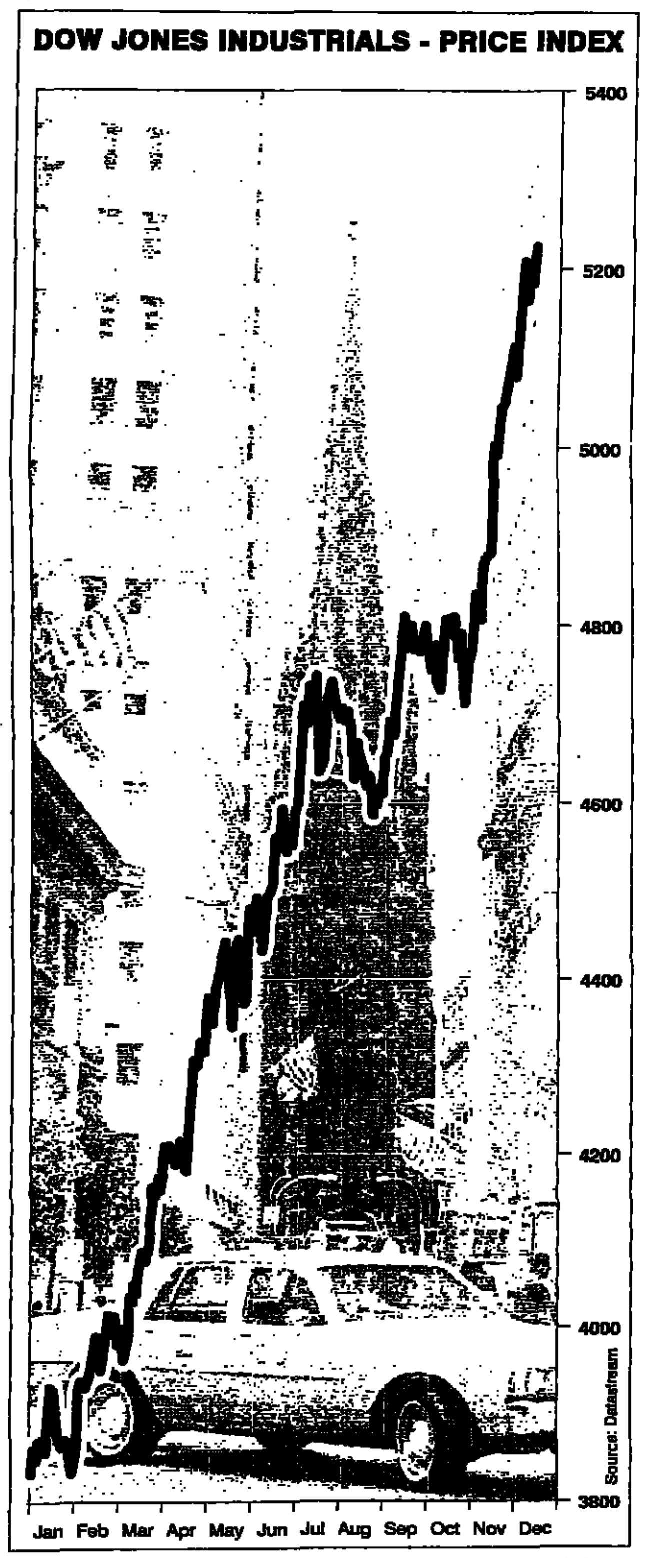
He believes a lot of the forecasts being made on Wall Street for how the market will move in 1996, such as the Dow breaking through 6,000 before the year end, are outlandishly optimistic. This in itself is a warning that things are getting out of hand in the market, he says. "It will be very difficult to make money next year — a very scary market."

But this is not the same as saying the market is going to crash. Mr Anderson's view is perhaps more a manifestation of the Things-Can't-Stay-This-Good school of worry.

The fact is that although prices may not rise as fast as this year, no one believes there will even be a serious correction, let alone a fall in the market next year. The economy is slowing down which means corporate profits may not rise so fast, but they will not go into reverse.

Mr Blood expects the Dow Jones industrial average to reach 5,500 by the end of 1996, an extremely conservative estimate since the index is already above 5,200 but hardly a prediction of disaster. "There will be no major setbacks of more than 10 per cent next year. The time to worry will not be until 1997."

It would be safer to avoid a few specific sectors such as high-tech companies and retailers (who will not do well in slower economic conditions), but most analysts expect the market to advance pretty broadly. There may be a lot of volatility but an investor who buys fundamentally good stocks and holds on through any price fluctuations should do well.



The only way is up: how the Dow Jones industrial average has soared by more than 1,000 points in 1995

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Covering all the angles

Are you covered if you return home to find burst pipes? Morag Preston reports

After this week's sudden snow showers and high winds, Britain's insurance companies are bracing themselves for a spate of winter damage claims.

Come January, however, their real work will begin, as people return from Christmas visits to family or breaks abroad to find that fallen trees, heavy rain, or strong winds have wreaked havoc on their homes.

For Arthur and Margery Day the shock came after a fortnight in the sun last Christmas to celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary and watch the World Golf Championships live in Jamaica.

The couple returned home to find their three-bedroomed bungalow flooded after an overnight frost had blown a water pipe in the roof.

Mr Day, 75, had changed insurance companies just four months earlier. He and his wife had renewed their home and contents insurance with Sun Alliance under its relaunched telephone-selling arm, Sun Alliance Connections, in August the previous year, although it had been slightly more expensive than their existing cover. The damage to the Days' home was extensive. "The entire bungalow had to be redecorated — wall-papered, plastered and painted," says Mr Day. "There was also a problem with the electrics and the plumbing, but we didn't lose out at all."

Arthur and Margery Day: policy took care of the damage to their home last winter

The initial problems were dealt with on the Bank Holiday the couple returned home, while the loss adjuster turned up the next morning to work out their claim.

For three weeks, the couple lived with their son while their furniture was stored in the double garage next to the bungalow. "It will be some time before my wife will go away in the winter," says Mr Day.

Mr Day's cover gave him the choice of cash compensation or replacement furniture and fittings arranged by the insurer.

Growing numbers of insurers are doing this, including Sun Alliance, as they can benefit from special discounts from retailers for replacement furniture and other goods. "Insurers like Commercial Union and Barclays tend to prefer making replacements because they have an arrangement with retailers, which gives them a discount. But some insurers will give customers a choice of where to find replacements," a spokesman said.

Replacement rather than cash compensation can, however, benefit the insurer more than the customer. Sun Alliance Connections is one insurer which saves itself money but does not offer reduced premiums for customers who opt for replacement rather than cash compensation.

Mr Day opted for cash compensation because he had the time to choose replacement carpets, and sought three separate quotes himself.

So if the worst does happen and you return home to find your favourite carpet knee-deep in floodwater or part of your roof missing, will you be covered?

You should be covered for:

Loss or damage caused by:

- ■ Fire, lightning, explosion or earthquake
- ■ Theft or attempted theft
- ■ Riot or vandals
- ■ Storms or flooding
- ■ Falling trees
- ■ Subsidence, heave or landslip
- ■ Any sort of vehicle or animal crashing into your home
- ■ Escape of water or oil
- ■ Cost of alternative accommodation.

Accidental damage cover is available at extra cost.

You will probably not be covered for:

- ■ Normal wear and tear; electrical or mechanical breakdown
- ■ Damage caused by pets (except Lloyd's)
- ■ Catastrophes such as radioactive contamination and war
- ■ Certain risks, such as theft and burst pipes, if your home is left unoccupied or unfurnished for a specified period
- ■ Subsidence damage to walls and driveways
- ■ Very few policies cover matching sets if just one item is damaged.

Buy-back boost for European trusts

It all started so well. When Mercury and Kleinwort Benson launched their European privatisation investment trusts last year, together they pulled in more than £1 billion from more than 100,000 investors. But the subsequent share price performance disappointed.

This week Mercury took steps to put its European Privatisation trust back on track with the launch of an innovative share buy-back scheme. This is designed to reduce the discount at which the ordinary shares of the privatisation trust trade while at the same time increasing their net asset value. Kleinwort, too, has been working to achieve the same result albeit through a different route such as roadshows to financial advisers and presentations to institutions.

Lough Callahan, managing director of Mercury's investment trust division, said: "At launch, 70,000 investors backed the issue. We and they have been frustrated that the good portfolio performance has not been translated into a strong share price." Under the buy-back scheme, Mercury is seeking approval from shareholders and warrant holders to approve a plan to purchase, for cancellation, up to 86 million of the ordinary shares through the market and to issue up to £86 million of preference shares to fund the purchases.

TRUST WATCH

The latest Micropal performance statistics show Mercury's Privatisation trust has fared better than its Kleinwort rival. From May 1994 to the beginning of this week, £100 invested in the Mercury trust has produced a return of £4.46, while Kleinwort's trust shows a £5.53 loss. In both cases charges also have to be taken into account. The question for investors is simple: do you stick with your trust or cut your losses? If you want to keep your European exposure you could switch to a more diversified unit or investment trust in the sector. In terms of how long you should hold the investments, a three to five-year view is probably necessary, though you can always take profits on the way. Continuing unrest in France — and now Belgium — could throw up some new investment opportunities if both Governments are forced to make concessions. They would need additional funds from new privatisations to cover budget deficits. One of the biggest problems faced by Mercury and Kleinwort is that privatisation issues have not enjoyed the support from private investors in the same way that the BT and British Gas issues did.

That may be about to happen with European privatisations. In Germany, where only 6 per cent of households own shares, compared with more than 20 per cent in the UK, next year's planned privatisation of Deutsche Telekom, potentially the world's largest to date, will attempt to draw in 250,000 employees. Other countries will be monitoring Telekom's debut to see whether similar schemes could help to popularise shares in European privatisation issues.

Mercury estimates there are £50 billion worth of Western European privatisations to come in the next four years. With so much choice and European governments needing the cash, Kleinwort and Mercury investors should keep their nerve for a year. *Mercury helpline: 0500 050066.*

ROBERT MILLER

POSTAL INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS
CURRENT INTEREST RATES
GUARANTEED UNTIL 1 FEBRUARY 1996

	% Gross	% Net[1]
POSTAL 90 (Annual)		
£50,000 or more	6.75	5.06
£25,000 - £49,999	6.65	4.99
£10,000 - £24,999	6.45	4.84
£2,500 - £9,999	5.45	4.09
£50 - £2,499	0.50	0.38
POSTAL 90 (Monthly)		
£50,000 or more	6.55	4.91
£25,000 - £49,999	6.46	4.85
£10,000 - £24,999	6.27	4.70
£2,500 - £9,999	5.32	3.99
£50 - £2,499	0.50	0.38
POSTAL 60 (Annual)		
£100,000 or more	6.00	4.50
£50,000 - £99,999	5.85	4.39
£25,000 - £49,999	5.75	4.31
£10,000 - £24,999	5.45	4.09
£2,500 - £9,999	4.95	3.71
£50 - £2,499	0.50	0.38
POSTAL 60 (Monthly)		
£100,000 or more	5.84	4.38
£50,000 - £99,999	5.70	4.28
£25,000 - £49,999	5.60	4.20
£10,000 - £24,999	5.32	3.99
£2,500 - £9,999	4.84	3.63
£50 - £2,499	0.50	0.38
POSTAL 30		
£50,000 or more	5.75	4.31
£25,000 - £49,999	5.65	4.24
£10,000 - £24,999	5.10	3.83
£2,500 - £9,999	4.65	3.49
£50 - £2,499	0.50	0.38

	% Gross	% Net[1]
POSTAL 7[1] (Annual)		
£100,000 or more	5.70	4.28
£50,000 - £99,999	5.65	4.24
£25,000 - £49,999	5.60	4.20
£10,000 - £24,999	5.00	3.75
£2,500 - £9,999	4.60	3.45
£50 - £2,499	0.50	0.38
POSTAL 7[1] (Monthly)		
£100,000 or more	5.56	4.17
£50,000 - £99,999	5.51	4.13
£25,000 - £49,999	5.46	4.10
£10,000 - £24,999	4.89	3.67
£2,500 - £9,999	4.51	3.38
£50 - £2,499	0.50	0.38
POSTAL ACCOUNT[2] (Annual)		
Can now be operated through branches.		
£20,000 or more	5.50	4.13
£10,000 - £19,999	4.55	3.41
£2,000 - £9,999	4.30	3.23
£500 - £1,999	3.45	2.59
£50 - £499	0.50	0.38
POSTAL ACCOUNT[2] (Monthly)		
Can now be operated through branches.		
£20,000 or more	5.37	4.03
£10,000 - £19,999	4.46	3.35
£5,000 - £9,999	4.22	3.17
£50 - £4,999	0.50	0.38
GO DIRECT[2]		
Can now be operated through branches.		
£20,000 or more	5.50	4.13
£10,000 - £19,999	4.55	3.41
£2,000 - £9,999	4.30	3.23
£500 - £1,999	3.45	2.59
£50 - £499	0.50	0.38

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[2] Holders of these accounts my operate selected transactions through branches. When making withdrawals, identification (such as a full U.K. driving licence or passport) will be required, in addition to a passport.

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The Kobe earthquake was one of a series of shocks that contriouted to the poor performance of the Japanese market

The good, the bad, and the stuff of nightmares

In the first of a two-part unit trust review, **Caroline Merrell** lists winners and losers of 1995

Those in the business of gazing into crystal balls at the beginning of this year unanimously endorsed the UK as a good place to invest.

For once, the experts proved correct — anyone who invested in a UK unit trust last year would have seen an average return of between 10 and 13 per cent, depending on whether they chose to invest for income or for capital growth.

The UK economy was boosted by continuing low inflation and overall interest rate cuts, which helped industry and encouraged investment. The UK stock market gained momentum during the year, spurred by a number of big takeovers. The FT-SE opened the year at 3,065.50, and when the market closed yesterday it had reached about 3,665 — up nearly 20 per cent.

The Lloyds takeover of TSB, Glaxo's merger with Wellcome, and the frenzied activity in the regional electricity companies sent the index rising. There were also thrills for shareholders in smaller companies such as David Lloyd Leisure, floated at £1.70 a share in 1993 and taken over by Whitbread for £4 a share.

Frank Manduca, smaller companies analyst at Gartmore, the fund manager, believes the UK market was revived by bids. "Generally, companies have met their earnings targets, and both large and small companies have done well," he said.

Among the year's star performers were technology and biotechnology stocks, especially shares and products connected with the Internet. A rush of speculation on Netscape, the US Internet programme writer, had a knock-on effect in the UK, as did IBM's takeover of Lotus. Among those helped by the US technology explosion were British Biotechnology, Celltech, Psion and Unipalm.

Roger Cornick, marketing director of Perpetual, the fund manager, said: "The American market helped to push forward anything biotechnology or technology-based." He and others think the recovery will continue. Surprisingly, he said the insurance sector could provide good returns next year.

JAPAN

At the start of last year, the Japanese market was tipped as the place to be. Analysts felt five years of continual recession would have to come to an end. A series of public works programmes, low interest rates, low inflation and recovery in company profits would boost its economy. However, all the pundits proved to be wrong. Investors who put £100 into a Japanese unit trust a year ago would have lost on average about 10 per cent of their money. For some, the losses would be even greater — 25 per cent in some cases.

What went wrong? Dennis Clough, director of Schroder Investment Managers, put the poor performance of the market down to a series of shocks that destroyed the stuttering recovery. "The year started very badly with the Kobe earthquake. Although it was not as catastrophic as it could have been, the market did not like the uncertainty surrounding it." He said economic recovery had also been crippled by the strength of the yen, which kept Japanese exports extremely expensive.

Mr Clough said: "A strong currency reduces inflation, but this had an effect on domestic demand." During the year, inflation fell to such an extent it became deflation — prices fell. "People do not buy things if they know they are going to be cheaper in a week's time."

At the beginning of the year, company earnings were predicted to show strong recovery, but this proved a false prophecy. Fund managers point out that although there has been some recovery in earnings, the early new year promise has not materialised. The financial companies, banks and insurance companies, which comprise the greatest part of the Japanese index, continued to have big problems.

The collapse of Barings Bank was the final nail in Japan's coffin, as far as recovery was concerned, as fears of the existence of another rogue trader hampered any real return of confidence. "What is really missing is confidence," said Mr Clough. Among the poorest performers were funds from Sanwa, Govett and Friends Provident.

UNIT TRUSTS
THE BEST OF '95

LATIN AMERICA

At the end of 1994, Latin America was touted as the place to provide the best returns for those prepared to take a risk — and those who took this advice immediately had a savage reminder of what risk really means. In December, the Mexican Government devalued the peso by 14 per cent. In fact, it fell far more during the year, more than halving against the dollar.

The stock market also plunged more than 30 per cent. Foreign governments removed money from the country, which deepened the crisis. In an effort to stem the flow of foreign capital from the country, the Government raised interest rates to such an extent that they crippled local companies. The crisis has continued in spite of the decision by the International Monetary Fund and the US to bail out Mexico to the tune of $23 billion. Markets in other Latin American economies also fell as worried foreign investors removed their money.

The effect on those unit trusts hoping to take advantage of emerging Latin American markets has been extreme. Those unit trusts with the biggest exposure to Mexico fell the most — some by almost 50 per cent. The biggest fallers included funds from Perpetual, Edinburgh and Old Mutual. Latin American fund managers think there will be some recovery next year, but it will take a long time to make up ground. Chile, Argentina and Brazil are tipped for improvement.

TRUST WATCH

Japan	£
1 Murray Japan Growth	107.69
2 GT Japan & General	102.47
3 Martin Currie Japan	99.3
4 Lloyds Bank Japan Growth	98.85
83 Baring Japan Sunrise	82.36
84 Govett Japan Growth	81.13
85 Five Arrows Japanese Smlr Cos	79.28
86 Friends Prov' Japan Sm Cos	75.95
Average	90.90

UK — Smaller companies	
1 Invesco UK Smaller Cos	139.38
2 AES smaller Companies	130.02
3 Credit Suisse Smaller Cos	127.47
4 Waverly Penny Share	126.02
69 GT Smaller Cos Dv	95.86
70 Mercury Smaller Cos	95.41
71 Thornton UK Smaller Cos	95.42
72 Natwest UK Smaller Cos	93.46
Average	110.5

UK — Income	
1 Jupiter Income	127.82
2 Perpetual Income	121.23
3 Lazard UK Income	119.67
4 Maldon General	118.5
103 F&B High Income Port	99.94
104 Chartered Asset UK Income	99.78
105 Guinness Flight Income Share	99.61
106 Exeter High Income	97.09
Average	109.54

UK — Growth	
1 Jupiter Growth	131.5
2 Credit Suisse Fellowship	130.81
3 PM Equity Growth	128.55
4 Sovereign Ethical	126.45
135 Equitable Special Sits	100.60
136 Ely Pl BRI Director Dealings	97.86
137 Evermore Recovery	95.67
138 Guinness Flight Recovery	91.75
Average	113.04

UK — General	
1 Govett Geared Index	127.84
2 Gartmore Index	120.36
3 Lazard UK Income & Growth	119.36
4 Guardhill	119.04
104 M&G Second General	102.47
105 M&G Midland & General	96.58
106 Mercury WT UK Equity Bear	85.12
107 Govett UK Bear	83.12
Average	111.82

UK — Balanced	
1 BWD Balanced Portfolio	121.57
2 Britannia Higher Yield	118.76
3 Perpetual High Income	116.71
4 Credit Suisse High Income	116.27
51 Henry Cooke Arkwright Inc	103.06
52 F&C High Income	103.06
53 Fidelity High Income	102.56
54 Sun Life Capital Protecter	101.81
Average	108.86

Emerging markets with Latin American investment	
1 Portfolio Emerging Mkts	83.55
2 Schroder Emerging Mkts	83.18
3 Mercury Emerging Mkts	79.35
4 Invesco Global Em Mkts	76.01
14 Abtrust Latin American	62.93
15 Old Mutual Latin American	58.67
16 Perpetual Latin American	57.63
17 Edinburgh Latin American	51.55
Average	69.37

The tables show the value at December 4 of £100 invested on January 1, 1995, including charges. Source: Micropal

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Sara McConnell reports on your Halifax rights if you die

Twin-tracking: Jon Foulds, the Halifax chairman, and Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Leeds, who announced the merger earlier this year

Where there's a will, you win

Halifax members expecting a payout of bonus shares from the society when it converts to a public company next year should check their wills are up to date and that they have named an executor.

The Halifax has announced that it will preserve the right to free shares of those who die before the society becomes a public company. But descendants of dead members whose affairs are not in order could lose out on some of the bonus.

Ten million members will qualify for free shares in a new £10 billion company to be created from the merger of the Halifax and Leeds building societies announced by John Foulds, the Halifax chairman, and Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Leeds, earlier this year.

All savers and borrowers with at least £100 in a share account on November 25, 1994, will get a basic distribution of shares in the new Halifax company, expected to total about £500. Those who are both savers and borrowers will get two basic distributions. On top of this, anyone who has had at least £1,000 in a Halifax share account for two years on a qualifying day yet to be set will get a variable share distribution depending on their balance. But thousands of Halifax savers and borrowers will die before the conversion to a public company takes place next year.

The Halifax has now promised that it will pay shares to the successors of members who have died. In the case of joint accounts, this will normally be the second-named on the account. Shares to which holders of single accounts would have had a right will be paid to the executor or administrator named by the holder. But if successors have not been members of the Halifax for two years on the qualifying day, either as second-named account holders or in their own right, they may get only the basic payout.

Under the Building Societies Act, the Halifax is not allowed to pay more than a basic bonus of shares to anyone who has been a member for less than two years.

In more detail, the Halifax proposes that:

■ In the case of joint accounts, the second-named on the account should be eligible to receive the free shares if the first-named account holder dies, as long as the account still qualifies. Until the law was changed earlier this year, second-named account holders could not benefit if the first-named died, unless they had been members in their own right for two years. This angered many women who tend to be the second-named on accounts held jointly with their husbands.

Longhurst: C&G controversy

The exclusion caused widespread controversy in the conversion of Abbey National in 1989 and the takeover of C&G, where Andrew Longhurst is chief executive, earlier this year. Pressure from excluded C&G members forced a change in the law last May.

Second-named holders on joint accounts, who have had savings with the Halifax for two years as part of a joint account, and continue to hold savings until the society converts, will get any basic and variable bonus for which the account qualifies. But second-named holders who add their names to an account after November 25, 1994 could find they qualify for only the basic bonus if the first named dies.

To avoid this possibility and get around this, the Halifax suggests that newly married joint account holders open another account singly. The sole account holder should then appoint a successor who is a member of two years' standing. If the sole account holder dies before conversion, the successor can receive a basic and variable distribution on the dead member's behalf and pass it onto the spouse as beneficiary.

■ In the case of sole-named accounts, the right to shares will be inherited by whomever the holder has named as successor. But successors who have not been Halifax savers in their own right for at least two years will receive only the basic payment. If they have more than one account, they will receive only one basic payment. They will not get any variable payout from the dead member's account, regardless of whether the account was eligible for one.

Successors who have had Halifax accounts of their own for more than two years can receive any basic payout and variable payout on the dead member's account as well as any bonus they qualify for in their own right.

■ Successors of borrowers with mortgages in sole names will get the basic distribution, but if they are Halifax borrowers in their own right or stand to receive payouts from another mortgage account as successor, they can receive only one basic payout.

■ If one borrower with a joint mortgage dies, the other will be able to receive one basic distribution of shares as a borrower.

The Halifax concedes that its proposals are complex but blames the Building Societies Act.

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EFFECTIVE FROM 16 DECEMBER 1995

	% Gross	% Gross CAR[1]	% Net[2]	% Net CAR[1]
120 DAY ACCOUNT[1,7] (Annual & Monthly)				
£50,000 or more	5.55	-	4.16	-
£25,000 - £49,999	5.10	-	3.83	-
£10,000 - £24,999	4.85	-	3.64	-
£5,000 - £9,999	4.65	-	3.49	-
£50 - £4,999	0.50	-	0.38	-
NINETY DAY ACCOUNT[1,7] (Annual & Monthly)				
£50,000 or more	5.00	-	3.75	-
£25,000 - £49,999	4.55	-	3.41	-
£10,000 - £24,999	4.40	-	3.30	-
£5,000 - £9,999	4.20	-	3.15	-
£2,500 - £4,999	3.35	-	2.51	-
£50 - £2,499	0.50	-	0.38	-
SIXTY DAY ACCOUNT[1,7] (Annual) Formerly Sixty Day and Capital Transfer				
£40,000 or more	3.80	-	2.85	-
£25,000 - £39,999	3.50	-	2.63	-
£10,000 - £24,999	2.60	-	1.95	-
£500 - £9,999	2.15	-	1.61	-
£50 - £499	0.90	-	0.68	-
SIXTY DAY ACCOUNT[7] (Monthly) Formerly Monthly Income and Eclipse				
£50,000 or more	3.74	3.80	2.81	2.85
£25,000 - £49,999	3.45	3.50	2.59	2.62
£10,000 - £24,999	2.57	2.60	1.93	1.95
£2,500 - £9,999	1.88	1.90	1.41	1.42
£50 - £2,499	0.50	0.50	0.38	0.38
THIRTY DAY ACCOUNT[7] (Annual) Formerly Moneyspinner Classic (Annual)				
£40,000 or more	2.75	-	2.06	-
£25,000 - £39,999	2.40	-	1.80	-
£10,000 - £24,999	1.95	-	1.46	-
£1,000 - £9,999	0.90	-	0.68	-
£500 - £999	0.65	-	0.49	-
£50 - £499	0.50	-	0.38	-
THIRTY DAY ACCOUNT[7] (Monthly) Formerly Moneyspinner Classic (Monthly)				
£40,000 or more	2.72	2.75	2.04	2.06
£25,000 - £39,999	2.37	2.40	1.78	1.79
£10,000 - £24,999	1.93	1.95	1.45	1.46
£5,000 - £9,999	0.90	0.90	0.68	0.68
£50 - £4,999	0.50	0.50	0.38	0.38
INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT[7] (Annual & Monthly) Formerly Moneyspinner Plus, Premier, Preference Shares, Savings, Subscription Shares, Save 'n' Grow, Matured Extra Income Shares, Two, Three, Four & Five Year Extra Income Shares, Two Year Term Shares, Moneyspinner, Moneyspinner Seven, Premium Moneyspinner, Capital Growth Bond, Prima Bond, Moneyspinner Gross, Moneyspinner 90, High Interest, Premium Shares, Rockstar Savings, Monthly Income Shares and Premier Growth Bonds.				
£40,000 or more	2.45	-	1.84	-
£25,000 - £39,999	2.30	-	1.73	-
£10,000 - £24,999	1.85	-	1.39	-
£1,000 - £9,999	0.80	-	0.60	-
£500 - £999	0.60	-	0.45	-
£50 - £499	0.50	-	0.38	-
CURRENT ACCOUNT GOLD[5]				
£100,000 or more	5.89	6.05	4.42	4.51
£50,000 - £99,999	5.65	5.80	4.24	4.32
£25,000 - £49,999	5.46	5.60	4.10	4.18
£10,000 - £24,999	5.27	5.40	3.95	4.02
£50 - £9,999	0.50	0.50	0.38	0.38
CURRENT ACCOUNT[4]				
£50,000 or more	3.78	3.85	2.84	2.88
£25,000 - £49,999	2.81	2.85	2.11	2.13
£10,000 - £24,999	1.83	1.85	1.37	1.38
£2,500 - £9,999	0.85	0.85	0.64	0.64
£1,000 - £2,499	0.60	0.60	0.45	0.45
£50 - £999	0.50	0.50	0.38	0.38
TESSA[6]				
£1 or more - Annual				
Year 1-4	6.25	-	-	-
Year 5	6.75	-	-	-
£1 or more - Monthly				
Year 1-4	5.75	-	-	-
Year 5	6.25	-	-	-
CHARITY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT				
£1 or more	6.00	-	-	-
BASIC SAVINGS RATE				
£50 or more	0.50	-	0.38	-
CLOSED ISSUES				
PREMIER GOLD[3,7] (Annual)				
£50,000 or more	4.75	-	3.56	-
£25,000 - £49,999	4.25	-	3.19	-
£10,000 - £24,999	4.00	-	3.00	-
£500 - £9,999	3.50	-	2.63	-
£50 - £499	0.50	-	0.38	-
PREMIER GOLD[3,7] (Monthly)				
£50,000 or more	4.00	-	3.00	-
£25,000 - £49,999	3.50	-	2.63	-
£10,000 - £24,999	3.20	-	2.40	-
£500 - £9,999	2.70	-	2.03	-
£50 - £499	0.50	-	0.38	-
NET CORPORATE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT				
£10,000 or more	6.00	-	4.50	-
£1 - £9,999	0.50	-	0.38	-

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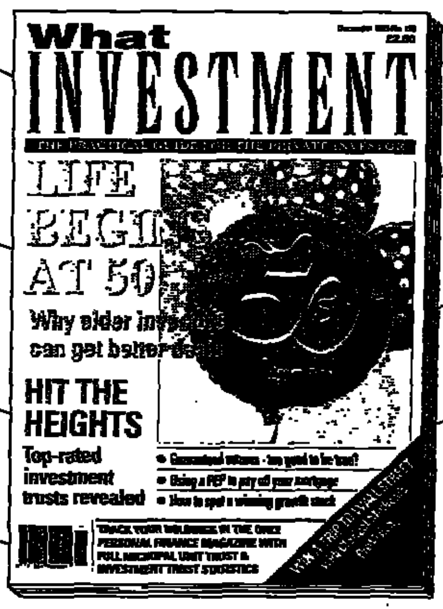

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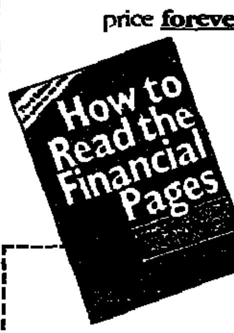

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Helen Pridham on winding-up pension schemes

Misery from tardy trustees

Membership of a company pension scheme is usually regarded as one of the best ways of securing a decent retirement income.

But for thousands of employees whose pension schemes have to be wound up — normally because their employers go out of business — it can shatter carefully laid plans for the future and take many years to find out exactly what has been salvaged from the fund. Often they have to make do on no more than they would have received from the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps) as they wait for matters to be sorted out.

While they struggle to make ends meet, members often feel insurance companies and independent trustees, charged with providing them with information and winding up their schemes, appear in no hurry to complete their tasks. At present, for example, many independent trustees are arguing that problems over equalisation of pension benefits for men and women retard progress. Some are seeking legal advice. But critics accuse them of deliberate foot-dragging.

John Cunliffe, of McKenna & Co, the solicitor, said: "A lot of independent trustees are using equalisation as an excuse to perpetuate their position so they can continue to rack up fees. The legal position is quite clear. Where a scheme is underfunded, paying out for more legal advice is unacceptable. Trustees should get on with the winding-up."

He is also critical of members of his own profession. "Lawyers need to take a robust view and tell these trustees to hurry up and stop spending members' money." He believes problems stem from the fact there is "no effective control over independent trustees", and many are not up to the job. "Some independent trustees are excellent, such as the Law Debenture Corporation, but many are incompetent. Some are cowboys."

According to the Occupational Pensions Board, there are at least 7,000 pension schemes being wound up, including 5,000 sold by Crown Life, the insurance company, which transferred its business to Century Life. Since it took over three years ago, Century Life has been struggling to put Crown Life's pension records in order. Such was the enormity of the task that John Deane, Century Life's customer services director, said it is still less than halfway through calculating members' benefits that it must pass to the independent trustees responsible for winding up the schemes. About 200 schemes have no trustees and Century Life is also in the process of applying to the courts for permission to install Pan Trustees Services to do the job.

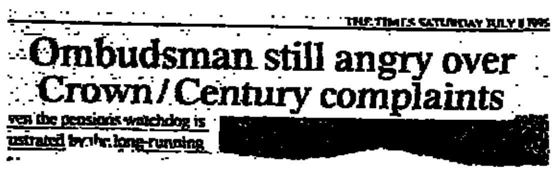
Century Life will not complete its calculations before 1997, though John Deane says anyone reaching retirement gets priority and is given at least the equivalent of Serps for now. However, the slow progress is frustrating to the members of the schemes and has been remarked upon by the Pensions Ombudsman in his last two reports. Many of the schemes are in deficit, largely because of high levels of commission paid by Crown and heavy discontinuance penalties Crown wrote into the contracts. Century Life, which specialises in acquiring smaller insurance companies or unwanted parts of other insurers' business, insists it is merely sticking to the original contracts. Century Life made more than £1 million profit last year.

To add to their frustrations, members of the Crown/Century schemes have no way of knowing whether the independent trustees responsible for winding up their schemes are doing an efficient job or not.

Independent trustees are appointed by insolvency practitioners. Once appointed, they have huge power over a pension scheme. They can, for example, change the investment policy of the fund without consulting members. They pay themselves from the fund, even if this means the fund goes further into deficit as a result. There is no limit on how long they can take to wind up a fund. Though, in theory, independent trustees are accountable to the members of the fund, it is not easy for members to challenge them.

Members can go to the Pensions Ombudsman if they believe there has been maladministration. However, he can only deal with complaints on a case by case basis. On the subject of equalisation, for example, casework director Joe Robertson, who monitors the progress of the Crown/Century schemes for the ombudsman, said: "As it is my understanding that there were standard rules for these schemes, it would seem sensible if one legal view could be taken for all schemes, rather than each independent trustee employing its own lawyers." But the ombudsman cannot make a general ruling.

Complaints to the Pensions ombudsman about maladministration by an independent trustee can backfire. A complaint to the ombudsman by a member of The Pynford Ltd Pension scheme about the trustee's decision to change the investment policy was found to be unjustified. The independent trustee was able to recover the cost of putting his side of the story to the ombudsman from the fund. According to the trustee's bulletin, they included "legal fees in excess of £10,000". Tony King, ombudsman casework director, said trustees can recover costs in this way, unless the Ombudsman rules otherwise. The Ombudsman may decide not to pursue a complaint if a scheme is heavily in deficit.


THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 8 1995

Ombudsman still angry over Crown/Century complaints

ven the pensions watchdog is
ustrated by the long-running

All systems stop?

ands face delays on payouts
ension schemes invested with
n, Sam McConnell reports -

Pensioners born at wrong time for season of plenty

Workers who are making National Insurance contributions may be losing out because of an anomaly in the state pension rules. Although employees must continue contributing until the official state retirement age (currently 60 for women and 65 for men), their contributions stop going towards their state pension at some stage during their 59th or 64th year.

The DSS considers the end of working life to be the April before retirement age, at which point pension contributions are halted. For someone born in March, this means losing out on 11 months of pension contributions. Yet there is no reduction in the level of NICs.

The impact should be minimal for anyone who has been careful with their pension planning. For others, one year of missed contributions could deprive them of a full basic pension or deplete the pension they had anticipated.

Every penny counts for pensioners struggling to survive. The most recent figures from Age Concern show that 30 per cent of pensioners living alone and dependent on state pensions have no central heating and 20 per cent have no telephone.

For many, a state pension is all they have to live on in retirement. A full basic pension is £58.85 a week for a single person and £94.10 for a married couple. Age Concern says 38 per cent of all pensioners in 1993 did not receive any occupational pension. For those who did, the median was £38.60 a week.

Even investment income would not have been sufficient to lift most out of the poverty trap. The 73 per cent of pensioners who had investment income in 1993 received on average only an extra £8.70 a week. When occupational pension and investment income figures are adjusted for inflation, the average single pensioner could expect an extra £49.21 on top of their state pension, bringing total weekly income to £108.05.

The DSS notes that people can receive a full basic pension even if they miss five years' contributions. *In addition, they do not necessarily* have to work a full 52 weeks to have credit for a full year's contributions.

Those born in March may lose out on the value of 11 months of pension contributions

THATCHER'S LEGACY

☐ Of more pressing concern is that, since 1980, pensions have risen in line with retail prices, instead of wages. Age Concern estimates that this move has cost single pensioners about £20 a week, while a married couple are now about £32 a week poorer. An Age Concern spokeswoman says: "This is a matter of urgency. People are now much more aware of the need to make provision for later life. But today's pensioners would not have been able to predict that the state pension that they were relying on would fall so far behind real earnings."

HOUSING BENEFIT CUTS

☐ From January local authorities will be able to restrict the rent of older people if those rents are considered too far above what is deemed a reasonable rent. This could lead to more older people losing their homes.

USING THE SYSTEM

☐ Many pensioners do not realise what they are eligible for. They may be entitled to income support, even if on a full state pension. They should also make sure they are getting council tax rebate and tax relief on savings.

KEEPING WARM

☐ *Pensioners get no help with* the 8 per cent VAT on domestic fuel. They can get grants to make their homes more efficient, and in bitter weather can have an £8.50 a week pension top-up for fuel bills.

KAREN ZAGOR

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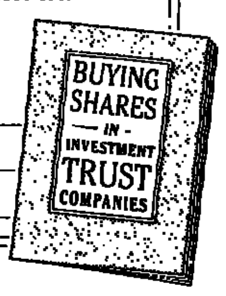

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Facts and figures for Tessa fans

FOR those Tessa savers whose accounts are nearing maturity and who are now considering how best to use their money, the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif) has published a factsheet looking at some of the options available. *Peps and Tessas* explains the similarities and differences between these two main tax-free savings plans and compares their performances. The factsheet is available free from Autif's Unit Trust Information Service on 0181-207 1361 or by writing to 65 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6TD.

■ NatWest customers will now be able to withdraw up to £250 per day from cash machines, provided there are sufficient funds in their account. Servicecard and Cashcard users will automatically benefit from the higher limit — previously, an individual limit was applied to customers' cards by NatWest. The initiative follows NatWest's earlier announcement that it will open 77 branches on Sundays in the run-up to Christmas.

■ For the six million living in stepfamilies, meeting Yuletide expectations for his, hers and their children and grandchildren can be a nightmare — and one that increasing numbers of people will be facing, according to a new financial handbook from the National Stepfamily Association. The book sets out to help stepfamilies to identify and face up to financial challenges and to understand the financial impact of cohabitation, marriage, separation, divorce and remarriage. It includes information on budgeting, borrowing, investing, insurance and tax. *His, hers, theirs: a financial handbook for stepfamilies*, priced at £6.50, is available from the National Stepfamily Association on 0171-209 2460. The guide can also be obtained through bookshops.

■ Ford Credit, the motor company's own bank, has produced a free 40-page guide to car finance. It explains the different finance plans available: conditional sale, hire purchase, personal loans, credit sale, personal purchase and personal leases. It also offers advice on how to meet repayments. For more information or a copy of *How to Finance Your Car*, call the Ford Information Service on 0800 111 222.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Britannia BS 01538 392808	Capital Trust	Postal	£2,000	5.60	Yly
Co-operative Bank 0345 252000	Pathfinder	Instant	£5,000	5.62	Mly
B & W Asset 0800 303330	Instant Acc	Postal	£10,000	6.05	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Go Direct	Instant	£20,000	6.10	Yly

FIXED RATES	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
West Bromwich BS 0121 525 7070	Gmtd Growth	31.1.97.	£5,000	6.80	F/OM
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Investment Cert	2yr bond	£1,000	6.60	F/Yly
Brmnghm Midshires BS 0645 720721	Quantum Fixed	3yr bond	£5,000	7.25	F/Yly
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Investment Cert	5yr bond	£1,000	7.25	F/Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS AND BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 9481444	Postmark	7 day p	£2,500	5.90	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Postal 90	90 day p	£10,000	6.80	Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 272505	120 Account	120 day	£1,000	6.50	Yly
Halifax BS 01422 333333	Special Rsrv	1 yr bnd	£10,000	6.90	OM

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C
Frizzell Bank 0800 373191	Mastercard/Visa	1.17%	16.10%	£11E

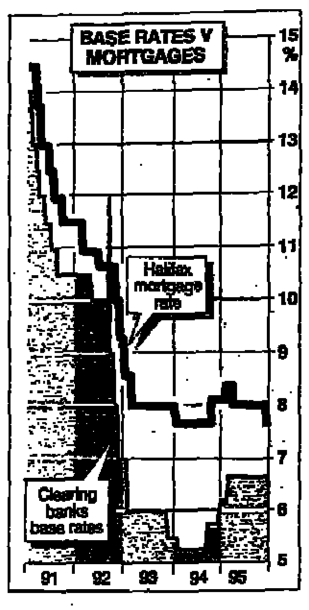
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

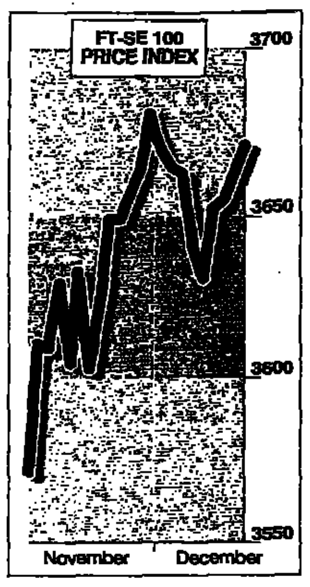
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22	£103.29

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	At tax rates 40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c* a	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-499	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond* a	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond a	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		01416362558
42nd Issue Cert†±	5.85			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	7.85			25-1,000	1mth	01416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond± a	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
8th Index Linked†±	3.00			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S2 a	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-20,000 a	60day	01253766151

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ±Guaranteed when held for 5 years ³0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ ⁴£40,000 jt in addition to S1 holdings ªTaxable but cred in full

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)		Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life	Level	£9,986	£11,157	£12,742
Prudential	Level	£10,129	£11,152	£12,528
Generali	Level	£10,027	£11,059	£12,403
Stndrd Life	Level	£9,956	£11,024	£12,416
Sun Life Can	Level	£9,972	£11,016	£12,442

SINGLE LIFE		Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential	Level	£9,371	£10,109	£11,191
Canada Life	Level	£9,156	£9,998	£11,230
Generali	Level	£9,135	£9,983	£11,158
NPI	Level	£9,213	£9,971	£11,052
Sun Life Can	Level	£9,230	£9,970	£11,063

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)		Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Prudential	Level	£8,980	£9,554	£10,358
Generali	Level	£8,929	£9,547	£10,401
Sun Lfe Can	Level	£8,855	£9,429	£10,249
Canada Life	Level	£8,740	£9,401	£10,337
NPI	Level	£8,496	£9,314	£10,153

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at December 15, 1995

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	4.80
	10,000	AIG Life	4.90
	20,000	AIG Life	5.00
	50,000	AIG Life	5.05
2 Years			
	5,000	AIG Life	5.08
	10,000	AIG Life	5.13
	20,000	AIG Life	5.23
	50,000	AIG Life	5.33
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	4.90
	5,000	Swiss Life	5.20
	50,000	Swiss Life	5.40
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.40
	20,000	Fncial Assrnce	5.50
	50,000	Fncial Assrnce	5.60
5 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.60
	3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.45

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed.

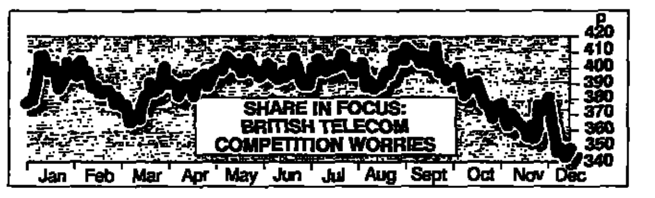
Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	100.75	9.296	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	123.58	9.389	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	137.70	9.419	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	140.82	9.479	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	136.52	9.499	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	127.13	9.514	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	117.49	9.993	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	94.87	9.222	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	128.41	9.126	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	147.01	9.243	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	140.12	9.521	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	115.69	9.282	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	135.29	9.312	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	137.33	9.174	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	136.94	9.378	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/03-28/09)	9.24766%	103.63	100.00	1,000
First National	9.30000%	100.75	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



SHARE IN FOCUS: BRITISH TELECOM COMPETITION WORRIES

LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.70	£15k+	90	Fxd to 30.11.96
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	1.44	to £100k	90	6.00% discount to 1.2.97
Yorkshire 0800 378836	1.59	neg	95	6% disc 1 year, 2% for 18 mnths
Banks				
Midland 0800 494999	2.64	£100k+	80	4.86% discount for 1 year
National Westminst 0121 234 2000	2.54	£15k+	75	5.20% discount for 12 months

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.70	£15k+	90	Fxd to 30.11.96
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.75	£15,001-100k	95	7.24% dsc 6 mth 2% 6m, 0.5% 1yr
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.35	to £150k	70	7.14% discount for 9 months
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.73	£20-145k	95	7.51%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Bank of Scotland 0131 243 5735	1.50	to £200k	95	6.49% discount for 6 months

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	1.89	no min/mx	95	fixed to 1.12.96
Bristol & West 0800 100117	2.75	£15k+	95	4.74% disc 12 mth
Skipton 0800 446776	1.49	£25-150k	95	6% disc 5 mnths 1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
Midland Bank 0800 494999	3.14	£30k+	95	4.36% discount for 1 year
Bnk of Ireland 01734 510100	0.73	£20-145k	95	7.26% for 6 mths, 3% disc for 6 mth

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE				
Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	511.10	540.90	-1.20	...
UK Equity	644.90	682.50	+1.90	...
Property	511.40	541.20	+0.60	..
Fixed Interest	356.70	377.50	+0.60	
Money	260.50	275.70	+0.20	
International	439.50	465.10	-8.50	..
ABBEY LIFE				
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	249.60	262.80	...	0
-do- Acc	491.50	517.40	+0.10	...
Equity Fd Inc	191.90	202.10	+1.60	...
-do- Acc	263.30	277.20	+2.50	...
Selective Fd	522.40	549.90	+1.50	..
Money Fd	394.40	415.20	+0.40	..
Prop Fd Ser 4	374.40	394.20	...	..
Equity Ser 4	245.70	258.70	+1.60	..
Man Ser 4	719.70	757.60	+2.10	...
Conv Ser 4	341.50	359.50	+0.30	...
Money Ser 4	341.10	359.10	+0.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	377.80	397.70	+2.20	..
American Ser 4	571.60	601.70	-5.50	..
High Inc Ser 4	750.40	789.90	+2.50	..
Indexed Inv Ser 4	225.30	237.10	-0.30	..
Japan Ser 4	358.90	377.80	-3.40	...
ALBANY LIFE				
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1724.40	1815.10	+7.20	...
European Fd Acc	397.70	418.60	-1.90	
Fixed Int Acc	554.00	583.10	+1.50	...
Gtd Money Acc	347.60	365.80	+0.30	..
Intl Managed Acc	654.90	689.30	+0.40	
Int Fxd Int Acc	358.30	377.10	-1.00	..
Japan Fund	268.10	282.10	-0.80	...
N American Acc	376.50	396.30	-1.00	..
Prop Fd Acc	455.60	479.50	-0.40	..
Multiple Inv Acc	1125.30	1184.30	+2.20	..
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE				
Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	388.00	408.50	...	
Equity Acc	1564.80	1647.20	...	..
Property Acc	605.70	637.60	..	..
Far East Acc	325.20	342.40	..	..
Managed Capital	578.20	608.70	...	..
-do- Acc	1201.60	1264.90		...
Overseas Acc	1033.50	1087.90	...	..
Gilt Edged Acc	532.00	560.00		..
Amer Equity Acc	971.70	1022.90		
Amer Man Acc	407.20	428.70	.	..
Amer Prop Acc	122.00	128.50	..	..
Distribution Bonds	24.80	26.20	..	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE				
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	171.50	180.50	+0.90	...
Balced Ser 6	792.10	833.70	+2.60	..
Opportunity Ser 6	180.60	190.10	+1.10	..
Distribution Ser 6	104.40	109.80	-0.60	6.82
UK Equities Ser 6	1105.00	1163.00	+9.60	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1162.00	1223.00	+9.20	...
North Amer Ser 6	545.90	574.60	-9.10	...
Far East Ser 6	590.90	621.90	-3.50	...
Europe Ser 6	426.00	447.30	+1.90	..
Intnl Ser 6	632.70	665.90	-3.60	...
Property Ser 6	566.20	598.10	...	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	482.50	507.80	+3.40	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	193.00	203.10	+0.30	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	309.70	326.00	+0.30	..
BARCLAYS LIFE				
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	950.70	1000.80	+9.00	..
-do- Initial	606.30	638.30	+5.70	...
Gilt Edged Acc	423.90	446.30	+2.90	..
-do- Initial	272.80	287.20	+1.60	...
International Acc	439.50	462.70	-2.60	...
-do- Initial	281.00	295.80	-1.70	...
Managed Acc	581.80	612.50	+2.30	...
-do- Initial	373.20	392.90	+1.40	...
Money Acc	302.90	318.90	+0.20	...
Property Acc	307.00	323.20	+0.30	...
-do- Initial	195.80	206.20	-0.20	..
America Acc	342.40	360.50	-3.70	...
Australia Acc	235.50	247.90	+0.50	...
Financial Acc	419.20	441.30	+6.30	...
500 Accum	477.70	502.90	-0.10	
Japan Genl Acc	318.10	334.90	-6.30	...
Income Acc	576.10	606.50	+5.70	...
Leisure Acc	283.40	298.40	+3.40	..
Special Sits Acc	278.10	292.80	-3.50	...
Univ Tech Acc	179.10	188.60	-2.90	..
BLACK HORSE LIFE				
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	889.05	899.05	+2.43	
Income Fund	834.36	878.27	+3.49	...
Extra Income	759.79	799.79	+3.79	
Worldwide Gth	534.43	562.56	-0.16	
Balanced Fund	739.41	778.33	+4.07	..
Smllr Cos Recov	876.97	923.03	+1.76	...
N Amer & Genrl	428.17	450.71	+0.48	..
Pacific Basin	437.64	460.68	-7.69	...
German Growth	250.83	264.04	-0.71	
Japan Growth	197.07	207.45	-4.34	
The UK Gth Fd	237.23	249.72	+1.34	..
Contl Euro Gth	149.14	156.99	+0.26	
Property Fund	411.82	433.50	+0.16	
Fixed Interest	346.32	364.55	-0.37	..
Cash Fund	294.51	310.02	+0.09	
Managed Inv	535.23	563.40	+1.37	...
Nth Amer Recov	290.31	305.59	+1.67	
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Gth	524.15	551.74	+0.90	
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE				
PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire 01475 565000				
Measured Perf	175.10	185.20	-1.30	..
Performance Plus	187.20	198	-2.10	...
With Prof Perf	178.90	189.20	+0.20	
UK Opportunity	208.70	220.80	+1.60	...
Euro Opportunity	232.70	246.20	-4.90	...
North Amer Opp	190.50	201.50	-3.20	...
Far East Opp	199.90	211.50	-0.90	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	158.70	167	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	193.90	205.10	+0.20	...
Fixed Int	212.40	224.70	+0.60	...
Cash	163.60	173.10	+0.10	6.49
Overseas	215.70	228.20	+2.50	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	372.00	391.60	-2.60	...
UK Equity	645.00	679.00	-2.50	...
Property	260.20	273.90	...	...
Money Market	261.80	275.60	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest	319.00	335.80	+0.90	...
Japan	371.30	390.90	-4.10	...
North America	178.10	187.50	-2.80	...
International	345.40	363.60	-1.40	...
European	303.70	319.70	-8.80	...
Far East	142.90	150.50	-0.70	...
CANADA LIFE				
24 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth ‡	277.80		...	
Managed	364.10	383.30	+1.80	...
Property	241.40	254.20	-0.40	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	262.10	275.90	+0.70	...
Equity	412.90	434.70	+3.50	...
Cash	224.00	235.80	+0.20	...
CLife Euro Mgd	419.90	442.10	+1.70	...
CLife Intl Fd	387.80	408.30	+0.90	...
Managed Fund	797.40	839.40	-2.60	...
Property Fund	551.00	580.00	-0.10	...
Equity Fund	1051.80	1107.20	-10.90	...
Gilt Edged Fd	670.70	706.00	+1.40	...
Deposit Fund	345.30	363.50	-0.30	...
Investment Fd	448.10	470.50	+5.70	...
International	601.80	633.50	-6.20	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE				
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	161.30	169.80	...	...
Managed Fund	702.00	739.00	+0.70	...
Equity Fund	407.40	428.90	+2.80	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS				
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	318.10	334.90	+1.70	...
Ruby	185.20	198.20	+0.60	
Emerald	155.70	163.30	+0.50	...
Equity	366.80	386.20	+5.30	...
Property	230.70	242.90	...	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	223.20	235.00	+1.50	..
Indexed Secs	180.00	189.50	+0.20	..
Cash	195.50	205.80	+0.20	...
Nth American	276.30	290.90	-0.20	...
Far East	341.40	359.40	-0.40	...
International	264.00	277.90	+0.10	...
Special Sits	384.30	404.60	+2.60	...
Intl Income	324.10	341.20	+3.90	...
American Inc	229.60	241.70	-1.40	...
European	361.00	380.00	+1.50	...
Japanese	140.30	147.70	-0.70	...
SE Asia	381.00	401.10	-2.40	...
With Profits Reg	175.70	185.00	+0.20	...
-do- Spec	175.70	185.00	+0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	366.60	385.90	+1.60	...
Equity	445.50	469.00	+4.30	...
Property	212.40	223.60	+0.50	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	283.70	298.70	+1.80	
Index Linked	190.60	200.70	+0.20	
Cash	264.60	278.60	+0.20	..
Nth American	344.30	362.50	-4.00	...
Far East Acc	324.80	341.90	-2.40	..
International Acc	334.60	352.30	-2.90	..
Special Sits	578.30	608.80	+0.60	...
European Flex	507.30	534.10	-1.30	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP				
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units): Key ‡	229.57	...	+5.06	...
-do- Pacemaker ‡	338.97	...	+7.64	...
-do- Cash	210.85	221.95	+0.15	...
-do- Equity	594.46	625.75	+5.96	...
-do- Fxd Int	394.23	414.98	+2.65	...
-do- Managed	427.43	449.93	+3.76	...
-do- Property	283.43	298.35	-0.87	...
(Pens): Cash Cap	211.91	222.97	+0.09	
-do- Cash Inv	321.45	338.38	+0.37	...
-do- Equity Cap	£15.57	£16.39	+16.82	...
-do- Equity Inv	£23.64	£24.88	+27.17	...
-do- Fixed Cap	426.16	448.60	+2.64	...
-do- Fixed Inv	646.75	680.80	+4.46	...
-do- Index Cap	210.39	221.46	-0.09	..
-do- Index Inv	318.09	334.79	-0.09	...
-do- Mngd Cap	627.49	660.53	+6.12	...
-do- Mngd Inv	952.28	£10.02	+9.95	..
COMMERCIAL UNION				
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) ‡	806.60	...	-4.64	...
Var Ann (5) ‡	101.02	...	-0.63	...
Prime Managed	440.40	463.60	+1.40	...
Prime UK Equity	542.90	571.50	+3.70	
Prime Int Equity	320.50	337.40	-2.80	...
Prime Property	254.10	267.50	+0.70	...
Prime Fxd Int	251.90	267.30	-1.40	...
Prime Index-Lnk	181.40	191.00	-0.10	...
Prime Cash	214.30	225.60	...	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE				
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1212.00	1275.70	..	0
Equity Fund	1759.20	1851.70	..	...
CROWN FINANCIAL				
Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 01483 715033				
Life Mangd Acc	651.30	685.50	+6.80	
Life Fxd Int Acc	399.00	420.00	+0.40	
Life Equity Acc	931.90	980.80	+9.70	...
Life Money Acc	312.20	329.60	+0.30	
Life Inv Tst Acc	852.60	897.40	+8.80	...
Life Intl Acc	548.00	576.80	-2.90	...
Life High Inc Acc	869.20	914.90	+0.70	...
Life Property Acc	260.60	274.30	-1.30	..
Crown Brit Inv A	1416.60	...	...	...
Brewin Equity	802.80	845.00	+1.90	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE				
Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Secure Fund	182.80	192.50	+0.20	...
Managed Fund	263.10	277.00	-0.20	...
-do- Series 2	174.40	183.60	-0.10	...
Adventurous Fd	219.20	230.80	-2.10	...
-do- Series 2	169.80	178.80	-1.50	...
Equity Mnged Fd	262.10	275.90	-0.40	
-do- Series 2	175.80	185.10	-0.20	...
UK Pref Fxd Int	157.30	165.60	+0.30	...
UK Equity Fund	184.80	194.60	+1.10	..
Property Fund	121.60	128.10	+0.20	..
Envrnmntl Opps	177.10	186.50	+0.80	
Euro Fund	204.40	215.20	-1.60	...
North Amer Fd	230.60	242.80	-3.30	...
Oriental Ops	235.20	247.60	-0.50	
Japanese Fund	123.90	130.50	-1.60	..
Bll & West Life	130.10	137.00	+0.10	...
Bll & West Pen	149.90	157.80	+0.20	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND				
60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	301.10	312	+2.30	2.93
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT				
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	336.40	354.20	+1.60	
UK Equity	451.20	475.00	+4.30	
Stewardship	390.00	410.60	+1.90	
Overseas Equity	314.60	331.20	-0.90	..
North American	175.40	184.70	-1.70	
Pacific Basin	172.30	181.40	-0.90	
European	255.60	269.10	+0.30	..
Property	182.30	191.90	+0.20	..
Fixed Interest	259.40	273.10	+1.70	..
Index Linked	179.60	189.10	..	...
Cash	208.90	219.90	+0.20	
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	586.10	619.00	+1.30	..
Managed	755.30	795.00	+3.00	..
Deposit	355.20	373.80	+0.50	
Property	476.30	501.30	+0.60	..
American	494.00	520.00	-5.00	
Australian	580.90	611.40	+7.30	...
European	619.10	651.60	+0.40	..
Income Acc	816.10	859.00	+7.90	..
-do- Dist	463.50	487.90	+5.80	4.93
International	340.30	358.20	-1.00	
Japan Smaller	460.40	484.60	-5.80	...
Singapore & Mal	398.00	418.90	-1.60	..
Smaller Cos	447.00	470.50	+6.00	..
Tokyo Fund	653.60	688.00	-8.70	..
UK Equity	637.10	670.60	+6.00	...
CCM Mangd MG	830.50	874.20	+0.40	..
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	327.40	344.70	-5.50	..
GT Plan Wwide	517.10	544.40	-3.00	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS				
Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	749.20	749.20	+2.30	
-do- Inv A	749.10	788.70	+2.40	...
UK Equity	452.50	476.50	+5.40	..
Gilt Plus	219.10	230.80	+1.10	...
Managed	335.40	353.10	+1.10	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT				
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	231.30	243.40	+0.60	...
Unitised Profit	146.90	154.60	+0.20	..
UK Equity	321.30	338.10	+2.10	...
Fixed Int	212.70	223.80	+1.50	...
Index-Linked	176.40	185.60		...
Cash Deposit	180.50	190.20	+0.10	...
Property	182.30	191.80	+0.20	...
International	187.70	196.90	-0.60	...
American	194.60	204.70	-1.00	..
Japan	246.30	259.10	-2.80	..
Japan Smllr Cos	252.20	265.40	-2.80	...
European	199.00	209.40	+0.10	..
Pacific Fund	297.10	312.60	-0.90	...
Conv Life	138.60	145.80	-0.40	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE				
Royal Exchange, London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	820.50	865.10	...	..
Managed Initial	504.30	530.80	-0.30	...
-do- Acc	735.90	774.60	-0.10	
Equity Initial	770.10	810.70	+1.90	..
-do- Acc	1123.90	1183.10	+3.30	...
Fixed Int Initial	476.40	501.50	+0.70	...
-do- Acc	695.30	731.90	+1.30	...
Intl Initial	495.50	521.60	-2.40	...
-do- Acc	723.20	761.20	-3.10	...
Nth Amer Initial	219.80	231.40	-5.40	...
-do- Acc	291.90	307.20	-7.00	...
Pacific Initial	243.50	256.30	-2.80	...
-do- Acc	320.30	337.20	-3.60	...
Property Initial	178.20	187.60	..	..
-do- Acc	259.90	273.50	...	...
Index-Linkd Initl	168.40	177.20	+0.50	...
-do- Acc	223.60	235.40	-0.50	..
Deposit Initial	201.10	211.70	+0.10	
-do- Acc	293.50	309.00	+0.30	..
Euro Initial	114.60	120.70	-0.50	...
-do- Acc	140.70	148.10	-0.60	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD				
PO Box 255, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	27.63	29.09	+0.04	...
Balanced	28.05	29.52	+0.07	..
Opportunity	28.58	30.09	+0.10	
Deposit	24.50	25.85	+0.07	..
Pension Funds				
Foundation	28.30	29.79	+0.01	
Balanced	28.46	29.96	+0.09	
Opportunity	29.17	30.70	+0.08	...
Deposit	24.88	26.19	+0.04	..
HAMBRO ASSURED				
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	185.00	194.70	+0.40	..
-do- Pens	232.20	244.40	+0.70	...
UK Equity	191.90	202.00	+0.40	...
-do- Pens	225.10	236.90	+0.50	...
International	162.20	170.70	-0.40	...
-do- Pens	178.70	188.10	-0.50	..
Deposit	144.50	152.10	+0.10	...
-do- Pens	173.30	182.40	+0.20	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION				
3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 0171 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	382.50	407.00	+0.60	..
North America	422.80	449.80	-3.40	...
Far East Fund	594.00	632.00	-5.20	..
Global Managed	507.40	539.80	-1.10	..
Deposit Fund	238.00	250.60	+0.20	...
Prime Residential	139.00	146.40	-0.10	..
European Fund	285.00	303.20	-3.00	...
Fixed Interest	67.40	71.70	+1.20	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE				
NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	596.00	630.20	+3.00	...
British Fund	603.10	638.30	+4.90	
International	603.40	638.60	-5.50	...
Dollar Fund	475.40	503.10	-10.20	..
Capital Fund	540.90	572.40	+1.60	...
Income Fund	769.70	814.50	+7.30	
Property Series A	469.10	496.50		4.50
Property Units	775.70	814.90		..
Financial Fund	694.60	735.30	+4.60	...
Managed Ser A	601.60	636.90	+2.20	
Managed Units	1081.20	1138.20	+4.00	...
High Yield Fund	700.70	741.50	+4.40	...
Money Series A	300.60	318.10	+0.20	...
Money Units	400.00	421.10	+0.40	
Equity Fund	689.30	729.50	+2.10	
Fixed Interest	401.70	425.10	+1.20	...
Indexed Secs	199.80	211.50	-0.30	..
European Fund	816.40	864.00	-1.10	..
Natural Res	321.30	340.00	-1.40	..
Far East Fund	677.50	717.00	-8.00	..
Smaller Cos	545.70	577.50	+1.60	..
Special Sits	533.40	564.50	+6.00	..
Man Currency	277.50	293.70	-0.60	
Japanese Tech	323.60	342.50	-9.60	
US Smaller Cos	347.50	367.80	-2.80	..
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	258.60	272.30	+0.30	..
Financial Ser I	56.00	59.90	+0.30	..
Fixed Interest	358.90	377.90	+2.60	
Gold	89.10	93.90	-1.00	
Managed	669.30	704.60	+2.00	...
Mngd Growth	213.60	225.00	+0.30	..
Mngd Opp	225.20	237.20	+0.30	..
Property	329.40	346.70	...	...
Residential Prop	104.00	109.60	+0.10	
TSB American	244.80	257.70	-6.10	...
TSB Brit Gwth	979.30	1030.90	+7.20	
TSB European	293.30	308.90	-0.90	...
TSB Income	418.80	440.90	+4.70	...
TSB Intl	462.90	487.40	-3.50	...
TSB Intl Inc	321.00	338.00	+0.90	...
TSB Pacific	418.40	440.50	-4.80	...
TSB Prem Inc	276.40	288.90	+0.70	..
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE				
Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	636.50	670.00	+2.40	...
Global Property	311.50	327.90	...	
Global Fixed Int	562.60	592.20	+1.60	..
Global Equity	688.40	724.60	+2.90	...
Global Cash	222.60	234.30	+0.20	..
LAURENTIAN LIFE				
Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 01452 371371				
Property	499.90	526.20	-0.10	
Managed	459.80	483.90	+1.20	
American	497.90	524.10	-6.90	..
UK Equity Fd	502.70	529.10	+3.70	...
Japan	219.40	230.90	-2.50	
Index-Lkd	196.80	207.10	+0.10	...
High Yield	935.50	984.70	+0.90	..
Money	419.70	441.70	+0.30	...
International	433.30	456.10	-2.80	..
Henderson Active	227.40	239.30	-0.70	..
Perpetual Active	363.70	382.90	-1.60	..
Growth Acc	716.80	754.50	-0.30	
Gilt Edged	469.60	494.30	+2.00	..
European	168.90	177.70	+0.90	
Far East	215.70	227.00	-0.20	..
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE				
2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Sne Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90		
-do- Acc	192.60	202.80	+0.20	..
Brit Opps Int	159.90	168.40	+0.90	
-do- Acc	204.60	215.40	+1.10	
Cash Initial	169.10	178.00	+0.20	
-do- Acc	300.00	315.80	+0.30	...
Equity Initial	722.40	760.50	+5.90	
-do- Acc	1281.90	1349.00	+10.30	
Fixed Initial	366.30	385.50	+2.30	...
-do- Acc	649.60	683.80	+4.20	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	138.90	146.30	+0.10	
-do- Acc	210.20	221.30	+0.10	
Intl Initial	340.90	358.90	-1.90	..
-do- Acc	595.40	626.80	-3.00	...
Managed Initial	510.70	537.60	+1.90	
-do- Acc	904.90	952.60	+3.30	..
Property Initial	216.70	230.30	+0.40	
-do- Acc	388.00	408.50	-0.60	
LINCOLN NATIONAL				
1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 0181 902 8876				
Equity Units ‡	#142.40		+2.14	
Property Units ‡	#26.57		-0.02	..
Bal Bd Exec Unit	72.02	75.81	+0.38	...
2nd Equity Acc	686.60	722.70	+5.90	..
2nd High Inc Ac	659.90	694.70	+3.80	...
2nd Property Acc	245.50	258.40	+0.10	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	193.30	203.40	+1.00	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	503.10	529.60	+2.60	
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	251.20	264.40	+1.60	
2nd Deposit Acc	295.20	310.70	+0.20	..
2nd Gilt Acc	331.50	348.90	+1.00	...
2nd Amer Acc	827.20	870.70	-16.70	
2nd Intl Mny Acc	276.70	291.30	-3.20	...
2nd Index Acc	219.60	231.10	+0.20	...
2nd Far East Acc	458.50	482.60	-2.70	...
2nd Global Acc	188.40	198.30	-1.30	...
2nd Euro Acc	174.00	183.20	+0.60	...
2nd Japan Acc	192.50	202.70	-1.40	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	174.60	183.80	-0.10	..
2nd Cap Gth Acc	136.90	144.20	+0.50	...
LONDON LIFE				
100 Temple Street, Bristol. BS1 6EA 0117 9279179				
Equity ‡	979		+8.60	..
Fixed Interest ‡	464.90	..	+0.30	..
Property ‡	430.20	..	+0.40	...
Deposit ‡	305.40		+0.30	..
Mixed ‡	651.10		+2.90	...
Indexed Stock ‡	228.30	...	-0.50	...
International ‡	323.90	...	-1.20	..
Equity A ‡	226.80		+2.00	...
Fixed Int A ‡	206	...	+0.10	
Property A ‡	189.90		+0.20	...
Deposit A ‡	179.30		+0.20	...
Mixed A ‡	213.70	..	+0.90	
Index Stock A ‡	178.50	..	-0.50	..
International A ‡	202.10	..	-0.90	..
Equity P ‡	906.60	..	+4.30	..
Fixed Int P ‡	622.50	...	+2.10	
Property P ‡	334.30		+0.60	
Deposit P ‡	363.90	..	+0.40	
Mixed P ‡	596.10		+0.60	
Index Stock P ‡	262.30	..	+0.20	
International P ‡	377.80	..	-3.80	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE				
Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap ‡	600.70	...	+1.40	
-do- Acc ‡	1052.70		+3.30	...
Property Cap ‡	144.50	..	-0.20	
-do- Acc ‡	242.90	...	..	
Fxd Interest Cap ‡	303.90	...	+0.30	
-do- Acc ‡	344.90	...	+0.90	..
Equity Cap ‡	345.60	..	+1.10	...
-do- Acc ‡	593.30	..	+2.30	
Internatl Cap ‡	244.40	..		
-do- Acc ‡	415.30		+0.40	
Gtd Deposit Cap ‡	163.20		-0.10	..
-do- Acc ‡	273.30		+0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap ‡	365.20	..	+0.70	...
-do- Acc ‡	625.00		+1.70	..
Moneymaker Fd ‡	484.20	...	+1.40	...
Capital Growth ‡	1936.50		+7.30	..
M & G				
Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	504.50	529.80	-5.20	..
Amer Rec Bond	554.50	582.40	-5.60	..
Am Smlr Cos Bd	268.80	282.40	-3.50	..
Australasia Bd	246.70	259.10	+0.50	...
Commodity Bond	354.50	372.30	+1.80	
Deposit Bond Acc	375.80	394.70	+0.30	..
Equity Bond Acc	1628.30	1709.80	-4.60	..
European Bd Acc	420.00	441.10	+1.80	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	808.70	849.20	+1.30	...
Far East Bd Acc	323.20	339.50	-0.70	...
Gilt Bond Acc	481.40	505.60	+0.30	..
Gold Bond Acc	161.30	169.40	-6.60	...
High Yield Bond	357.70	375.70	+2.30	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	222.60	233.90	-0.30	..
International Bd	825.90	867.30	-5.70	..
Japan Bond Acc	256.20	269.10	-3.90	
Japan Sm Cos Ac	241.20	253.30	-2.40	
Managed Bonds	947.40	994.80	+2.40	..
Prop Bond Acc	358.20	376.30	+2.50	...
Rec Bond Acc	827.00	868.40	-16.70	...
MGM ASSURANCE				
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	247.70	260.80	+2.40	...
UK Equity Acc	362.20	381.30	+3.80	
Special Sits	100.50	105.80	+0.90	
Special Sits Acc	147.00	154.80	-1.40	...
North American	211.30	222.50	-2.90	
N American Acc	309.00	325.30	-4.10	
Pacific Basin	368.10	387.50	-2.70	...
Pacific Basin Acc	538.40	566.80	-3.80	..
Fixed Interest	297.60	311.30	+1.40	
Fixed Interest Acc	435.80	458.80	+2.10	
Property	178.90	188.40	+0.10	
Property Acc	261.90	275.70	+0.20	
Deposit	153.50	161.60	+0.10	
Deposit Acc	224.70	236.60	+0.10	
Managed	280.20	295.00	-1.10	
Managed Acc	377.60	397.50	+1.30	..
MERCHANT INVESTORS				
St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	426.20	448.60	+0.40	
UK Equity	405.60	426.90	+3.20	...
Gilt Edged	630.90	664.10	+1.90	...
Interest Fund	407.80	429.20	+0.40	..
Managed Fd	531.40	559.30	+6.20	
Intl Equity	641.10	674.90	+2.60	...
North American	245.10	258.00	-2.20	..
Far East	468.00	492.60	+0.30	
Intl Currency	265.00	278.90	-1.10	
NPI				
48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	539.40	567.70	+1.30	
UK Equity	692.30	728.70	+4.90	..
Overseas Equity	530.10	557.90	-3.30	...
Americas	480.00	505.20	-0.90	
Far East	595.10	626.40	-5.60	
Property	217.10	228.50	+0.30	
Fixed Interest	427.30	449.70	+2.50	
Indexed Gilt	248.90	262.00	+0.10	...
Deposit	225.80	237.60	+0.20	..
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds				
PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1595.70	1679.70	+6.40	...
Equity Fund	3516.90	3702.00	+31.40	...
Property Fd	594.70	626.00	+0.80	
Fixed Int Fd	659.10	693.80	+4.40	...
Deposit Fund	365.00	384.20	+0.30	...
Intl Fund	270.90	285.20	-1.30	..
OLD MUTUAL				
2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	327.50	345.50	+2.10	...
Fxd Interest Acc	263.70	278.20	+1.60	...
International Acc	264.20	278.70	-2.20	...
Managed Acc	236.70	249.70	+1.00	..
Property Acc	219.60	231.70	+0.40	...
Money Acc	161.00	169.90	+0.10	...
Spec Mkt Acc	229.70	242.40	-0.30	...
Japan Equity Acc	121.90	128.60	+0.80	...
N Amer Acc	172.40	181.90	-1.80	..
Pacific Acc	159.70	168.50	-0.60	...
European Acc	184.40	194.60	-3.50	...
PEARL ASSURANCE				
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	147.10	154.90	+0.30	..
Prop Acc (Gross)	329.80	347.20	+0.40	..
Inv Equity	1337.70	1408.20	-16.60	..
Inv Managed	936.90	986.30	+6.20	..
Ret Managed	1063.60	1119.60	+6.80	...
PROVIDENT MUTUAL				
Six Hills Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2ST 01438 732000				
Managed Ord	527.00	554.70	+2.10	...
Managed Initial	343.70	361.80	+1.20	...
Equity Ord	813.70	856.50	+6.10	...
Equity Init	530.70	558.60	+3.70	
I-Linked Gilt Ord	214.50	225.80	..	
I-Linked Gilt Init	146.10	153.80	-0.10	...
Oseas Equity Ord	414.20	436.00	-1.50	...
Oseas Equity Init	270.10	284.30	-1.20	...
Property Ord	279.10	293.80	+0.20	..
Property Init	182.00	191.60	..	
Fixed Int Ord	309.20	325.50	+2.00	...
Fixed Int Init	201.70	212.30	+1.10	
Deposit Ord	215.10	226.40	+0.20	..
Deposit Initial	140.30	147.70	+0.10	..
PRUDENTIAL				
Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 0171 405 9222				
Managed	385.70	401.80	+0.60	
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS				
1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	895.40	942.60	+4.40	..
Equity Fund	1725.60	1816.50	+16.10	..
Intl Fund	705.80	743.00	-1.80	..
Fixed Interest	618.90	651.50	+4.00	
Property Fund	492.40	518.40	...	...
Cash Fund	380.20	400.30	+0.30	...
Pacific Basin	392.80	413.50	-2.40	..
N American Fd	325.00	342.20	-2.40	..
Euro Fund	305.60	321.70	+1.10	...
Balanced Fund	175.30	184.60	-0.10	..
Strategic Fund	187.10	197.00	+0.60	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE				
Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) ‡	814.80	...	...	...
-do- Acc	475.80	500.80	..	...
Op Prop	506.90	533.50	+1.30	...
Op Equity	1110.80	1169.20	+6.90	...
Op High Yield	648.40	682.50	+2.60	..
Op Managed	906.50	954.20	+0.40	..
Op Deposit	409.40	430.90	+0.40	..
Inc Gth	335.40	353	+1.70	..
Japan Smlr	248.40	261.40	-6.10	..
Managed Gth	289.50	304.70	+0.50	..
Gilt	88.80	93.40	+0.80	..
British	406.70	428.10	+5.30	..
Global Bond	128.60	135.30	-0.50	..
Global Inc & Gth	188.20	198.10	-7.90	..
Gold Share	87.70	92.30	-3.10	..
High Income	312.50	328.90	+0.60	..
Income	487.80	509.20	+2.30	
Japan	421.30	443.40	-28.60	..
UK Smlr Cos	395.40	415.60	+1.00	
Mngd Growth	509.30	536.10	+2.20	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE				
New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	1080.30	1143.10	+2.90	...
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	426.80	449.20	+1.10	...
Equity Fund	611	643.10	+3.50	..
Property Fund	335	352.60	-0.20	
International	528.30	555.90	-2.10	
Pacific Basin	281.80	296.60	-1.70	
United States	321.70	338.60	-3.80	
Gilt Fund	402.20	423.30	+1.50	...
SAVE & PROSPER				
16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	839.20	888.10	+0.60	2.34
Deposit Fund (2)	392.40	413.20	+0.50	7.37
Gilt Fund	571.50	604.80	+2.20	7.82
Global Equity Fd	254.90	269.80	-1.01	
Property Fund (4)	116.40	123.20	-0.10	7.17
AG Bond Fund	156.20	165.40	+0.40	
SCOTTISH AMICABLE				
150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	667.50	702.70	+3.70	..
Fixed Interest	408.90	430.40	+2.00	...
Index-Linked	209.00	220.10	-0.10	
International	503.60	530.40	-2.20	
Property	[illegible]	[illegible]	-3.00	...
Cash	239.90	252.60	+0.30	...
Managed	519.70	547.10	+1.00	...
Cap Greed Bd	129.60	136.50	+0.80	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE				
28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	189.003	198.951	+0.17	...
Index-Linked	173.30	182.50	...	...
Fixed Interest	199.20	209.80	+1.00	...
Mixed	285.70	300.90	-0.10	...
UK Equity	272.70	287.10	+1.10	..
International	284.00	299.00	-2.10	..
American	315.80	332.50	-3.20	...
Japan	238.20	250.80	-2.80	
European	291.30	306.70	-2.80	..
Pacific	362.60	381.80	-2.10	..
Technology	465.50	490.10	-8.20	...
Frgn Bd/Crncy	254.50	268.00	-2.10	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	224.50	236.40	+0.20	...
UK Equity	396.50	417.40	-0.40	...
American	299.80	315.70	-5.40	...
Pacific	371.40	391.00	-2.20	...
European	521.50	549.00	-2.10	...
International	346.50	364.90	-2.80	...
Fixed Interest	259.40	273.10	+0.30	...
Index Linked	210.80	222.00	-0.60	
Deposit	203.10	213.90	+0.20	...
Managed	316.70	333.40	-1.00	...
Worldwide	133.10	140.20	-0.30	...
Pen Worldwide	143.90	151.60	-0.30	..
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE				
109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	1864.50	1922.30	+54.30	..
Safety Fund	258.00	271.60	-1.50	..
Growth Fund	257.50	271.10	+0.60	..
Opportunity Fd	258.10	271.70	+0.60	...
Cash Fund	181.20	190.80	+0.20	...
European Fund	378.80	398.80	-1.40	
Gilts & Fxd Int	222.20	233.90	+1.90	
Index-Linked Fd	194.50	204.80	-0.10	...
International Fd	311.80	328.30	-2.40	
North American	277.70	292.40	-3.80	..
Property Fund	128.80	135.60	-0.10	
UK Equity	276.10	290.70	+1.80	
UK Smaller	267.40	281.50	+0.40	..
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT				
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	296.90	312.60	+0.90	
Equity	315.20	331.90	+2.10	...
International	289.00	304.40	-1.00	..
Property	234.10	246.50	+0.50	..
Fixed Interest	238.90	251.50	+1.80	..
Index Linked	192.90	203.10	-0.10	..
Cash	193.80	204.10	+0.20	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	883.60	940.10	-0.50	...
Cash Fund	352.30	371.30	+0.10	...
Property Fund	300.10	316.30	+0.10	...
Equity Fund	994.70	1058.30	-3.30	...
Fxd Interest Fund	505.70	532.90	+4.70	...
International	414.30	440.80	-2.00	...
High Income	791.80	842.40	-1.00	
Far East	588.90	626.10	-5.10	..
North American	653.80	695.60	-13.00	...
Special Sits	725.00	771.30	+6.00	..
Technology	955.50	1016.50	-19.10	...
Extra Income Fd	435.50	463.40	+2.60	...
Gilt Fund	515.60	548.60	+0.60	...
European	163.40	173.90	+0.20	...
Adventurous Mg	250.90	264.20	-0.90	..
Secure Mgd	161.00	169.70	+0.70	..
Equity Inc Dist	128.10	135.00	+0.20	4.45
Managed Dist	117.40	123.80	-0.20	5.03
SCOTTISH WIDOWS				
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1071.20	1071.20	+4.30	...
Inv Pol 2	970.90	1022.10	+4.00	...
Inv Pol 3	923.20	971.90	+3.90	...
Inv Cash	328.80	346.20	+0.40	...
Mixed Fund	504.50	531.30	-3.40	...
Equity Fund	605.90	637.90	-1.40	...
Property Fund	246.10	259.20	+0.40	..
International Fd	546.50	575.40	-11.80	...
Fixed Interest Fd	415.60	437.60	+1.50	..
Indexed Stock Fd	212.00	223.30	...	...
Cash Fund	237.60	250.30	+0.30	..
SKANDIA LIFE				
Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	423.70	445.90	+0.70	...
Equity Acc	514.00	541.00	+0.70	..
International Acc	373.70	393.30	-0.60	..
Property	231.30	243.50	+0.20	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO				
3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 0131 225 2552				
Cash	279.30	294.10	+0.30	...
Equity	1153.70	1214.50	+7.90	
European	185.80	195.60	-0.80	..
Far East	180.40	189.90	-1.20	..
Fixed Interest	440.40	464.20	+2.60	
Index Linked	226.30	238.20	+0.30	..
International	674.20	709.70	-4.20	...
Managed	793.10	834.90	+2.20	..
Nth American	177.00	186.40	-1.20	
Property	373.50	393.20	+0.60	..
Pensions				
Cash	440.80	464.10	+0.60	..
Equity	1724.70	1815.50	+5.70	...
European	225.70	237.70	-2.50	..
Far East	146.30	154.10	-1.90	..
Fixed Interest	619.40	652.10	+3.80	..
Index Linked	316.40	333.10	...	...
International	973.50	1024.90	-9.00	..
Managed	1148.60	1209.10	+0.10	..
Nth American	228.30	240.30	-1.30	..
Property	519.10	546.50	+0.30	..
Stock Exchange	259.40	273.30	+0.20	..
SUN ALLIANCE				
St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	756.00	795.80	+2.50	...
Equity Fund	1001.90	1054.70	+8.70	...
Fixed Interest Fd	450.00	473.70	+2.50	...
Index-Linked Fd	341.20	359.20	...	...
Property Fund	532.60	560.70	+0.40	...
International Fd	745.30	784.60	-4.00	...
N American Fd	314.90	331.50	-3.40	...
Far East Fund	242.90	255.70	-1.30	...
Deposit Fund	311.40	327.80	+0.30	...
Intl Bd ‡	#102.40	...	+0.90	...
Worldwide Bond	175.20	184.50	-0.10	...
European	182.60	192.30	-1.90	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	756.00	795.90	+0.90	..
Ebor Phoenix Eq	514.00	552.30	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund ‡	618.40	...	+0.60	...
-do- Acc ‡	574.80	...	+0.50	...
Agricultural Fd ‡	858.00	...	+0.70	...
-do- Acc ‡	822.20	...	+0.60	...
Abbey Nat Fd ‡	460.50	...	+0.40	...
Abbey Nat Acc ‡	484.90	...	+0.30	...
Investment Fd ‡	403.80	...	+1.30	...
Investment (A) ‡	387.00	...	+1.30	...
Equity ‡	1465.10	...	+12.20	...
Equity Acc ‡	1399.50	...	+11.70	...
Money Fund ‡	498.90	...	+0.50	...
-do- Acc ‡	475.80	...	+0.40	...
Actuarial Fd ‡	665.40	...	+2.70	...
Gilt-Edged Fd ‡	422.60	...	+2.40	...
-do- Acc ‡	422.60	...	+2.40	...
Retire Annuity ‡	1272.10	...	...	...
Immed Annuity ‡	307.50	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life ‡	236.40	...	+0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA				
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc ‡	1628.60	...	+9.30	...
Managed Acc ‡	925.10	...	-1.60	...
Equity Account ‡	1331.90	...	-13.30	...
Mngd Fund Acc	423.50	445.80	-0.80	...
Equity Fund Acc	578.80	609.30	-6.10	...
Prop Fund Acc	266.90	281.00	+1.40	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	338.20	356.00	+3.10	...
Money Fund Acc	230.20	242.30	+0.20	...
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	218.10	229.60	+1.00	...
Pers Pens Acc ‡	2112.60	...	+11.30	...
Pens Mngd Acc	982.00	1033.70	+5.50	...
Pens Guarantee	273.80	288.20	+0.40	...
Pens Equity	377.00	396.90	+0.40	...
Pens Property	311.60	328.10	+0.60	...
Pens Fixed Int	319.20	336.00	+2.70	...
Pens Intl	275.70	290.20	+4.10	...
Pens Money	249.90	263.00	+0.30	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	210.20	221.20	+0.60	...
SUN LIFE UNIT				
St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	990.90	1043.10	+5.30	...
Property Acc	318.90	335.70	+0.70	...
Equity Acc	1641.00	1727.40	+11.60	...
Fixed Int Acc	443.10	466.50	+2.50	...
Cash Acc	322.80	339.80	+0.20	...
Amer Equity Acc	462.10	486.50	-2.20	...
Japan Acc	313.20	329.70	-1.90	...
Pacific Acc	387.20	407.60	+4.90	...
Far Eastern Acc	878.30	924.60	+6.30	...
International Acc	662.90	697.80	+1.80	...
Distribution Fund	286.80	301.90	-0.80	5.96
European	209.30	220.40	+0.80	...
Defrd Dist	184.30	194.00	+0.50	...
TSB LIFE LTD				
Charlton Place, Andover, Hants. SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	314.40	331.00	+1.50	...
Property Fund	231.00	243.20	+0.10	...
Fixed Interest Fd	246.20	259.30	+1.10	...
Money Fund	208.80	219.90	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	408.90	430.50	+1.30	...
WINDSOR LIFE				
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	771.20	812.60	+5.40	...
Money Fund	330.90	348.30	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	693.40	729.80	-1.00	...
Fixed Interest	305.70	321.70	+2.60	...
Property Fund	332.90	350.40	...	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Genl	673.80	710.00	-12.30	...
Income	808.00	851.40	+6.60	...
International Gth	680.00	716.50	-12.80	...
Capital Fund	679.30	715.80	+3.60	...
Recovery Fund	648.20	683.00	-5.20	...
Japan & General	276.70	291.60	-6.00	...
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	18.80	19.79	...	...
Bear	21.22	22.06	+0.10	...
Owl	23.27	24.49	+0.13	...
Bull	19.85	20.89	+0.04	...
Stag	20.85	21.95	+0.13	...
Gilt Edged	20.32	21.39	+0.02	...
Deposit	16.38	17.24	...	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	25.91	27.27	...	...
Bear	30.68	32.29	+0.14	...
Owl	32.34	34.01	+0.19	...
Bull	26.16	27.54	+0.07	...
Stag	26.89	28.31	+0.15	
Gilt Edged	25.96	27.33	+0.04	
Deposit	21.48	22.61	...	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	647.41	...	+1.58	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	386.31	406.64	+3.02	...
N Amer Equity	341.14	359.09	-0.06	
Far East Equity	387.73	408.14	-0.86	..
Fixed	321.56	338.48	+0.32	..
Cash Deposit	213.31	224.54	...	...
Property	147.12	154.86	...	...
Special Opp	392.31	412.96	+2.29	...
Managed	341.55	359.53	+0.85	...
Index-Linked Fd	201.51	212.12	-0.40	..

Conal Gregory on the art of selecting an investment

How to lay foundations of a vintage liquid asset

The 1995 vintage has shown remarkable strength, say auctioneers and merchants

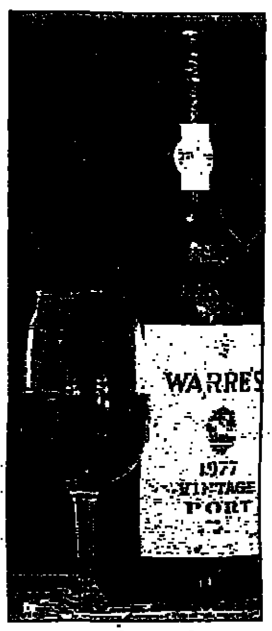
Christmas is an excellent time to start a wine cellar where the intention is to sell some in the long term to "finance" future purchases. Auctioneers and merchants are currently reporting a firm market in fine wines, with Paul Bowker, Christie's wine director, saying 1995 has shown "remarkable strength".

The secret of choosing wines that will appreciate is to select only the top estates (with port, leading shippers) and vintages with true potential. One tip is to buy larger size bottles — such as magnums — as the wine matures more slowly and commands a price premium far beyond the initial extra outlay.

In port, Fonseca leads the way, combining weight and elegance in the glass. Look particularly for the rich 1992 (about £30) or 1985 (about £32) which should be ready in 2010 and 2005 respectively.

Taylor, Dow, Warre, Quinta do Noval, Croft and Cockburn — in that order — follow Fonseca. Already Taylor 1992 may cost £45, but Dow 1991 (a promising vintage) is more modestly priced at about £22. If looking for a port to enjoy around the turn of the century, buy a 1977 (such as Warre, around £28).

If your preference is for wines to accompany game and other richer foods, look for the northern Rhône reds made by Gérard Chave, Etienne Guigal and Paul Jaboulet Aîné. All three are in international demand and greatly sought after in the auction room. Both Gerard Chave and Paul Jaboulet Aîné make splendid Hermitage. The top three vintages are 1978, 1983 and 1990 but both 1985 and 1989 should show appreciation. With Etienne Guigal, seek out his individual crus of La Landonne, La Mouline and La Turque.



Port worth passing on

Champagne has a loyal following, but wise investors should buy only the de luxe vintage blends. At auction, four houses dominate: Bollinger RD (standing for "recently disgorged", when the champagne has spent a longer time on its lees), Dom Pérignon, Krug and Louis Roederer Cristal. The 1985 has great concentration but both 1988 and 1989 are likely to be worthy successors.

There has been a revival of interest in dessert white Bordeaux, but fortunately there are good stocks of the fine 1988 and 1989, two excellent vintages if the really elegant 1983 cannot be secured.

One estate stands head and shoulders above all others in Sauternes: the first great growth, Château d'Yquem, which yields only around 5,000 to 8,000 dozen bottles annually. Expect to pay £120 to £140 per bottle for a recent vintage. If starting a more modest cellar, buy Climens, Rieussec, Coutet and Lafaurie — Peyraguey.

In claret (red Bordeaux), there is real potential still in the 1989 and 1990 vintages for drinking/selling in eight to ten years' time. Ausone and Cheval Blanc will not disappoint, while Pétrus from Pomerol continues to enjoy international interest. Le Pin, also from Pomerol, looks overpriced. In the Graves district of Bordeaux, the stylist Haut Brion and La Mission-Haut-Brion make good cellar wines. The latter looks undervalued. In the Margaux district, the estates of both Margaux itself and Palmer continue to rise in price for good vintages, while the Pauillac trio (Lafite, Latour and Mouton-Rothschild) will not disappoint. If seeking a slightly less expensive claret, Léoville-Lascases and Lynch-Bages should be secured.

For lovers of red Burgundy, settle for Domaine de la Romanée Conti, particularly for 1988 and 1990.

Of the Domaine's wines, look for Romanée Conti itself, followed by La Tâche and Richebourg.

If you like the idea of a speculative few bottles, consider Grange (Australia), Sassicaia and Solaia (Italy), Vega Sicilia (Spain) and Dominus and Opus One (United States). All appear at auction and could well jump in price over the next decade.

Finally, consider an annual subscription to the catalogue service of the main wine auctioneers. This will bring a wealth of information, allow the investor to keep up to date with price trends and secure entry to restricted pre-sale tastings.

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

None too happy with the Woolwich

From Mr R. Clutton

Sir, Your article by Marianne Curphey, (Weekend Money December 9), was most interesting to me although it did not elaborate on the issue of lenders' failure to set up endowment policies alongside interest-only mortgages. In my case, I noticed that the Woolwich had failed to establish the required endowment policy correctly and notified them of the fact in September 1990. Despite meetings with branch and district managers and dozens of letters, it took four years for me to get any acceptance that there was actually a problem. It took many more months to get a settlement, which incidentally was calculated incorrectly owing to Woolwich procedures several times.

I would recommend that others in similar circumstances check and double check correspondence and do not assume that the lender knows and can determine their position accurately. My persistence eventually recovered nearly £2,000, but my trust of the lender is not redeemable.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER CLUTTON,
37 Lynmouth Crescent,
North Furzton, Milton Keynes.

Bank on song in Berkeley Square

From Mr N.L. Denton

Sir, When I left school in December 1965 for a pre-university job, I required a bank account for direct payment of my salary. I opened an account with the then Westminster Bank at their Berkeley Square branch. I visited the branch on Saturday, December 18, 1965, to sign the register and have never been back since. That is not to say that there has not been the odd minor problem over the years; however, I am able to say that I have never had any cause to consider changing either branch or the bank. While many people seem to make a virtue of changing banks on a regular basis, I am quite happy for my account to stay where it is. For myself, I hope that the nightingale continues to sing in Berkeley Square!

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL L. DENTON,
12 Maria Court,
Southcote Road,
Reading, Berkshire.

Good account of life beyond the local branch

From Mr A.M.Vale

Sir, Karen Zagor ("Safety-first savers", December 2) stated "regular postal accounts are similar to standard instant-access accounts but they lack the convenience of branch banking". What convenience? The great majority of us do not work within easy walking distance of our bank or building society, and to get there means sacrificing all or part of a lunch break. I opened a postal account with the Yorkshire Building Society a few years ago simply because they then offered a higher interest rate than most rivals on the amount I had to invest.

Instead of money wasted on bus fares or parking fees, I merely have to walk to the nearest post box. I am quite sure the trend towards postal or telephone banking will continue as people realise the advantages. And they will enjoy better rates of interest due to reduced overheads.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN MEYNELL VALE,
12 Norton Road,
Mumbles, Swansea.

To be or not to be member of society

From M. Garner,

Sir, As a long-time holder of a joint mortgage with a building society, I have recently discovered the following fact of which I was unaware.

As the second name on the joint mortgage, I have been held equally responsible for payments, but I am not entitled to membership rights. Only the first-named person is regarded as a borrowing member.

I regard this situation as unjust and in need of action to remedy this inequality.

Most second names on joint mortgages, like myself, will be women who I am sure also do not realise the one-sided nature of their position with the building society.

Yours faithfully,

MARILYN GARNER,
Twin Gables,
Boyers Orchard,
Harby,
Leicestershire.

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Dull end to the week

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2937½	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2875	+ 18¾	4.5	10.6
654	413	Abbey Nat	635	- 2	3.8	12.7
368	250	Allied Irish	358	+ 1	4.0	10.4
298	198	Aust New Z	298		5.4	...
4425	2531¼	Bank America	4137½	-206¼	...	...
307½	191½	Bank Scotland†	306½	+ 18½	2.5	13.6
812½	537½	Barclays	770¾	- 7½	3.7	10.5
498	298	Bk of Ireland†	480	+ 8	3.5	9.6
525	418	Cater Allen†	437	...	8.5	7.2
4718¾	2450	Citicorp	4143¾	-206¼	...	...
340½	216¼	Close Bros	323	- 2	3.4	14.3
£162¾	£129¾	Commerzbk	£152¾	- 12½	3.5	...
1375	993¾	Dai Ichi Kgn Y	1243¾	- 18¾	0.4	...
3231¼	2775	Deutsche Bk	3153¾	- 3¾	2.4	...
881¼	568¾	Espirito Santo	594¾	- 16¾	6.1	7.6
1611	1138¾	Fuji Bank Y	1453¾	- 9¾	0.4	...
490	395	Gerrard Nat†	463	...	6.2	14.6
253	180	Hambros†	200	- 1	4.7	...
1019	588	HSBC	998	- 6½	3.5	13.0
994	578	HSBC HK	977	- 4	3.6	12.7
400	228	Irish Perm	400	+ 2	3.0	9.2
463	353	Joseph (L)†	468	...	5.1	25.7
145	85	King Shaxson	141	- 3	8.2	10.6
885	530	Lloyds	864	- 11½	3.9	13.2
592	479	Nat Aust Bk	582	...	6.9	...
697	454	Nat West	653	- 14½	4.3	10.1
3000	2150	Ottoman Bank	2500	...	6.5	3.4
67	44	Rea Brothers	50	...	2.5	20.0
639½	373½	Ryl Bk Scot	606	+ 22	3.4	13.5
1478	906¾	Schroders	1338	- 18	1.3	19.1
1180	823¼	Schroders N/V	1135	- 18	1.6	16.2
111	81	Singer & Fried	110½	...	4.2	11.4
625	246	Stand Chart	574	+ 10	2.0	14.4
417	217	TSB	404	- 3	3.6	14.1
121	70	Union	100	...	3.8	...
£145¼	9043¾	Wells Fargo	£142	-150	2.1	...
270	211	Westpac	260½	- 2¼	5.1	...
295	200	Woolwich	270	..	5.3	15.4

BREWERIES

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
265	143	Accord Hldgs	265	...	...	9.5
731	487	Bass	722½	- 4½	4.0	...
449	238	Boddington	449	...	2.5	23.1
192	137	Burtonwd Brwy	176	...	3.8	17.0
191	137	Eldridge P 'A'	190	..	3.1	...
433	335	Fullr Sm 'A'	416	...	2.6	17.7
544	402	Greenalls Gp	541	...	3.3	...
658	468	Greene King	628	- 3	2.9	18.7
297	240	Hardy Hanson	286	...	4.5	...
160	150	Heavitree	155	...	4.5	10.9
3425	3048	Holt J	3108	...	2.2	16.6
347	219	Mansfield†	316	...	2.1	15.9
321	266	Marston Thmp†	306	...	3.0	14.4
543	391½	Morland†	530	...	2.8	...
8¼	6½	Paramount†	6¾	...	4.1	10.6

DISTRIBUTORS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
107½	89¾	ABI Leis†	93	...	5.8	9.5
585	460	Adam & Harvey†	463	...	5.3	6.1
21	13	Alexanders	17	...	5.1	28.0
113	88	Appleyard	93	...	8.1	10.0
4¾	3¼	Ass Br Eng	3½	...	2.1	20.5
623	518	BSS Group	535	...	4.6	15.4
39	31	Bandt	38	..	...	...
24½	15½	Bearing Power†	16½	.	9.5	...
28	18	Bogod 'A'	26	.	3.4	9.2
483	345	Brammer	431	+ 1	3.9	16.6
21	10½	Bridgend Grp	17½	...	1.4	...
98	78	Brit Fittings	82	...	4.9	12.4
270	215	Caffyns	250	...	5.9	18.9
88	54	Central Mtr	75	...	4.8	20.4
81	35	Cook (DC)	57	- 1	3.8	8.3
320½	220	Cowie	293	+ 1	4.8	12.7
155	125	Dag Motors	126	...	7.1	10.4
598	503	Dawsons B	503	...	1.9	11.1
501	379¾	Diploma†	375¾	- 20½	4.8	...
370	236	Electrocomponts†	360	- 7	2.1	24.4
265	133	Eurodis Elec	264	+ 1	2.0	18.3
226	64	Eurodollar	70	+ 1	14.6	4.0
130	87	European Mtr	97	...	8.7	8.3
449	280	Evans Halshaw	286	..	6.8	8.9
732	512	Farnell Elect	725½	- 3½	1.7	21.1
72	48	Fife Indmar	66	...	6.2	10.6
24½	15	Gardiner	17½	...	5.9	7.7
36¾	18	Glencheckan	36½	+ 3	1.0	...
108	61	Gowrings	86	..	8.3	14.3
218	148	Harris (Philip)	218	+ 8	4.3	13.7
201	142	Headlam	201	...	2.6	17.6
554	258	Henlys	498	...	2.5	18.5
137	81	Holders Tech	134	...	5.6	25.5
163	88	ISA Intl	154	...	1.3	16.9
430	200	Inchcape†	233	+ 3	8.0	21.1
66	53	Jacks (Wm)	60	...	1.6	11.4
187	142	Kwik-Fit	172	- 5	3.3	14.7
358¾	264¾	Lex Service	302	+ 3	6.0	18.1
185	146	Lookers	149	...	6.4	8.2
22	9	Malaya Gp	11½	..	5.2	15.5
9¼	5	Middlesex	8¼	..	0.8	18.9
71	36	Midlands	39	+ 1	...	5.5
534	330	Nortace	483	- 2	1.9	18.6
398	78	Northamber	250	...	0.9	28.7
155	135	PCL	137	..	7.8	9.8
283	225	Pendragon	273	...	3.8	14.3
166	123	Perry Gp	147	...	8.5	11.1
145	128	Quicks Group	140	...	5.1	11.9
198	160	REA	185	...	2.7	22.0
3¼	2¼	Reece	2¾	...	...	...
73	48	Ratners	56	...	2.8	11.4
6½	2½	Ross Gp	3½	...	...	...
63½	37¼	SEP Indl	58	- 1½	3.5	...
17½	8½	Sattoo	12½	- 1	...	7.1
74½	38	TLS	71	...	3.3	12.1
266	226	Time Products†	249	...	4.6	14.6
275	151	Vardy (Reg)	273	...	2.6	17.3
335	240	Wholesale Ftgs	325	..	4.5	20.3
80	54½	Wilshaw†	55½	+ ½	1.8	13.2
90	59½	Wyko	78	- 3	2.0	77.5
118	68	Young (H)	115	...	4.3	...

MEDIA

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
490	335	Abbott Mead	474	...	2.1	28.1
310	260	Adscene	270	- 2	3.7	15.0
40	22	Aegis Gp	30¼		..	15.3
7¾	1½	Allied Radio	3¾	..	...	...
13	9	BBB Design	11	+ 1	...	...
315	155	Barbour Index	310	...	3.6	38.2
10½	4½	Birkdale	7¾	- ¼	...	...

OTHER FINANCIAL

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
101	75	BWD	81	..	6.5	13.2
78	38	Barry Bch NBL	40		8.1	11.3
285	148	Biotec Inv	248		...	...
159	112	Brewin Dolphin	155	...	4.8	16.1
718	625	Caledonia†	718	...	3.3	22.3
2400	1900	Camellia	2000	...	2.3	18.4
22½	13	Carlisle	18	...	1.7	19.2
217	142	Cattles	212½	...	3.8	18.8
35	16	Christie	24	...	...	...
17½	13½	EFG	17	...	3.7	3.4
98	81	EFT Group	92	...	2.5	16.6
775	653	EFM	688	- 4	4.5	15.7
186	109	Exco	110	- 1	6.8	5.6
305	161	Gartmore	280	...	2.5	24.3
379	220	Govett	237	- 2	7.9	3.8
1272	963	Henderson Adt	1163	...	4.8	23.7
266	162½	Invesco	259	- 7	2.4	17.8
49	41	Investment Co.	41	...	7.1	12.3
233	198	Ivory Sime	232	...	4.0	17.2
248¾	164½	Jardine Strat	185¼	+ ¾	5.1	8.8
144	85	Johnson Fry	114	...	4.4	6.0
217	131	Lon Forfaiting	217	+ 2	3.5	15.5
171	116	Lon Scot Bk	170	...	8.2	18.8
182	151	Man ED & F	151	- 1	8.1	7.5
1353	853	M & G	1268	- 2	3.2	...
346	224	MAI	310½	- 9	3.5	15.4
130½	78	MAI 5.9% Cv Pf†	116½	- 2	6.3	...
986	680	MAM†	886	- 8	3.9	18.5
130	90	Nat Home Loan	104	- 1	1.2	3.6
1828	1150	Perpetual†	1820	...	2.7	...
652	515	Provident	628	...	3.8	18.1
330	245	Rathbone Bro	324	...	3.7	16.7
41½	24½	Rutland Tst	38½	...	4.1	17.2
355	201	S & U	291	...	5.8	6.6
133	105	SJP Capital†	112	...	3.3	21.2
527¼	305¼	Swire Pacific	495½	- 8	2.5	19.4
78	42	Tomy Lee	44	...	7.1	...
371	302	Transatlantic	351	- 1	6.0	28.5
28	5	Trio Hldgs	5	...	2.5	8.2
26	18	Western Selectn	23	...	1.4	...

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
269¼	193	Frost Group†	198	...	4.0	10.5
81	46	Gieves	78	...	3.2	17.6
222	112	Goldsmiths Gp	220		1.9	19.9
685	508	GUS	680	- 10	2.9	17.6
350	179	Hamleys	349	...	2.8	15.6
73	25	Hampton Gp	73	...	2.6	14.1
175	125	Hse of Fraser	165	...	4.2	21.3
83	57	Hughes (TJ)†	60	...	5.5	13.3
168	95	Innovations	138	...	1.7	68.9
534	220	JJB Sports	528	...	1.4	24.6
544	379	Kingfisher	525½	+ 2½	3.8	17.5
153	100	Kingsbury Gp	153	...	1.9	21.5
385	208	Liberty	313	...	2.9	28.2
305	184	Lloyds Chem	287	+ 8	4.8	10.9
165	108	MFI	158	+ 2	3.4	20.7
457	371	Marks Spencer†	438½	- 8½	3.0	19.0
645	500	Menzies (John)	629	...	2.9	14.1
603	338	Moss Bros	603	...	2.9	17.6
458	252	Next†	451	...	2.8	24.9
54	27	OEM	40	...	...	...
96	34	Oliver (G)	59	...	2.1	65.7
400	243	[illegible]	400	...	3.5	15.8
98	70	Partridge Fine	71	...	5.8	9.8
155	47	QS Hldgs	47	...	13.8	12.3
17½	5¼	Stiles Grp▲	15¾	...	...	...
193	113	Ramsays	192	..	3.2	22.2
120½	95½	Sears	98½	- 2	5.0	15.7
24	11½	Signet Group	15¼	...	...	...
484	321	Smith WH	417	+ 1	4.7	14.7
950	638	Sotheby's†	908	...	1.7	...
349	208	Storehouse†	342	- 3	2.4	21.1
140	112	Stylo	120	...	4.9	10.3
203	143	T & S Stores	183	...	4.8	11.6
165	90	Tie Rack†	105	...	2.1	17.3
4½	1	Upton & South	3	...	...	...
598	424	Vendome†	560	...	2.2	28.3
35	14	WEW Group†	18½	- ½	5.3	9.8
67	35	Wld of Leather	53	...	3.5	64.1
195	155	Wyevale	195	+ 1	3.3	17.4

PHARMACEUTICALS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2100	425	Brit Biotech	1608	+ 98	...	...
345	183	Cantab Pharms	338	...	...	...
614	233½	Celltech	578	+ 24	...	...
375	92¼	Chiroscience	384	+ 11	...	...
188	31	Cortecs	170	- 3	...	...
298	103	Fisons	294	..	1.2	...
912½	583	Glaxo Wellcome	889½	+ 1½	4.2	20.6
294	162	Medeva	262	- 5	1.7	16.9
719	273	Scotia	588	...	...	...
714	444	SmithKlineB	689½	- 6½	2.4	20.5
703	418	SmithKline Unit	687½	- ½	2.5	20.4
1337½	840	Zeneca	1255	- 12	2.8	25.6

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	476½	Allied Domecq†	516	+ 4	5.7	20.8
509	393	Bulmer (HP)	488	...	3.1	16.6
146	99	Burn Stewart	140½	...	4.4	30.2
461½	352	Grand Met	452½	...	4.2	15.6
536	404	Guinness	480½	- 6½	3.6	14.3
445	327½	Highland Distt	330	- 4	3.0	15.0
217	176	Macallan-Glen	190	- 1	0.5	42.1
710	600	Macdo Mrtn 'A'†	625	...	2.2	17.6
681	632	Matthew Clark	680	+ 5	4.0	...
140	81	Minster Wt	118	- 4	2.1	...
259	129	Taunton Cider	246	...	3.6	24.0

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BRITISH FUNDS

1995 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
106⅞	100²³⁄₃₂	Treas 14% 1996	100²³⁄₃₂	.	13.90	4.93
109⅝	103⅛	Treas 15¼% 1996	103⅝		14.75	6.16
107¼	102¼	Exch 13¼% 1996	102⅞	..	12.88	6.16
104¹⁹⁄₃₂	103⅝	Conv 10% 1996	103⅜	.	9.67	6.10
101¾	97½	Treas 7% 1997	101¼	...	6.91	6.08
109²³⁄₃₂	107¹³⁄₁₆	Treas 13¼% 1997	107¹³⁄₁₆	.	12.34	5.97
105⁹⁄₁₆	104⅛	Exch 10½% 1997	104⅞		10.01	6.05
104⅝	100¾	Treas 8¾% 1997	104⅛	.	8.40	6.12
117⅞	114⅝	Exch 15% 1997	115⅝		13.01	6.16
107⅝	102¾	Exch 9¾% 1998	106⅞xd	+ ⅛	9.13	6.19
102⅝	96⅝	Treas 7¼% 1998	102⅛	+ ⅛	7.10	6.26
100⅛	94¹³⁄₁₆	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100		6.75	6.73
117¾	114⅝	Treas 14% 1998-01	117⅜	+ ⅛	11.96	6.31
124⅞	120⅝	Treas 15½% 1998	122⅞		12.61	6.37
114⅜	109⅝	Exch 12% 1998	114⅝	+ ⅛	10.47	6.43
108⅝	100⅞	Treas 9½% 1999	108⅝	+ ⅛	8.77	6.45
116⅝	111⅛	Exch 12¼% 1999	116⅝	+ ⅛	10.50	6.52
111⅞	105⅝	Treas 10½% 1999	111⅞	+ ⅛	9.38	6.57
98⅝	89⅝	Treas 6% 1999	98⅝	+ ⅛	6.11	6.57
112⅛	105⅛	Conv 10¼% 1999	112⅛	+ ⅛	9.14	6.67
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
108⅝	102⅝	Conv 9% 2000	108⅝	- ⅛	8.30	6.69
105⅝	96⅝	Treas 8% 2000	105⅝	- ⅛	7.60	6.73
124⅛	117	Treas 13% 2000	124⅛	+ ⅛	10.46	6.76
113⅝	104⅝	Treas 10% 2001	113⅝	+ ⅛	8.82	6.88
100⅝	90⅝	Treas 7% 2001	100⅝	+ ⅛	6.97	6.92
114	103⅝	Treas 9¾% 2002	113⅝	+ ⅛	8.56	7.01
104⅝	94⅝	Treas 8% 2003	104⅝	- ⅛	7.63	7.17
116⅝	105⅝	Treas 10% 2003	116⅝	+ ⅛	8.60	7.21
119⅝	110⅝	Treas 11½% 2001-04	119⅝	+ ⅛	9.63	7.03
83⅝	70⅞	Fund 3½% 1999-04	83⅛	+ ⅛	4.21	6.10
113⅝	103⅝	Conv 9½% 2004	113⅝	+ ⅛	8.36	7.37
96⅝	87⅝	Treas 6¾% 2004	95⅝	+ ⅛	7.04	7.38
108⅝	97⅝	Treas 8½% 2005	107⅝	+ ⅛	7.88	7.38
114⅝	103⅝	Conv 9½% 2005	113⅝	- ⅛	8.35	7.42
130⅝	119⅝	Treas 12½% 2003-05	130⅝	+ ⅛	9.56	7.32
101⅝	94⅝	Treas 7½% 2006	100⅝	+ ⅛	7.45	7.40
102⅝	92⅝	Treas 7¾% 2006	102⅝	+ ⅛	7.58	7.45
104⅝	93⅝	Treas 8% 2002-06	104⅝	+ ⅛	7.67	7.45
124⅝	113⅝	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	124⅝	+ ⅛	9.44	7.25
108⅝	97⅝	Treas 8½% 2007	107⅝xd	+ ⅛	7.88	7.49
138⅝	126⅝	Treas 13½% 2004-08	137⅝	+ ⅛	9.79	7.32
112⅝	101⅝	Treas 9% 2008	111⅝	+ ⅛	8.05	7.54
103⅝	94	Treas 8% 2009	103⅝	+ ⅛	7.73	7.58
LONGS (over 15 years)						
87⅝	79⅝	Treas 6¼% 2010	87⅝	+ ⅛	7.14	7.66
112⅝	101⅝	Conv 9% 2011	112⅝xd	+ ⅛	8.03	7.68
112⅝	102⅝	Treas 9% 2012	112⅝	+ ⅛	8.01	7.66
82⅝	72⅝	Treas 5½% 2008-12	82⅝	+ ⅛	6.67	7.37
103⅝	93⅝	Treas 8% 2013	103⅛	+ ⅛	7.75	7.65
101⅝	91⅝	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	101	+ ⅛	7.67	7.67
104⅝	93⅝	Treas 8% 2015	103⅝	+ ⅛	7.72	7.64
111⅝	100⅝	Treas 8¾% 2017	110⅝	+ ⅛	7.89	7.69
141⅝	127⅝	Exch 12% 2013-17	140⅝	+ ⅛	8.52	7.75
UNDATED						
45⅝	40⅝	War Ln 3½%	45⅝	+ ⅛	7.72	...
31⅝	28⅝	Treas 2½%	31⅝		7.99	
50⅝	45⅛	Consols 4%	50⅝	- ⅛	7.90	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
215⅝	201⅝	Treas IL 2% 1996	215⅝	- ⅛		1.84
112⅝	106⅝	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	112⅝	+ ⅛	1.59	2.67
178⅝	165⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2001	178⅝	- ⅛	2.87	3.33
174⅝	161⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2003	174⅝	- ⅛	3.07	3.42
115⅝	109⅝	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	115⅝	- ⅛	3.11	3.43
183⅝	168⅝	Treas IL 2% 2006	183⅝	- ⅛	3.20	3.45
166⅝	152⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2009	166⅝	- ⅛	3.26	3.47
173⅝	157⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2011	172⅝		3.30	3.49
142⅝	129⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2013	142⅝	- ⅛	3.34	3.51
152⅝	137⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2016	151⅝	- ⅛	3.30	3.55
146⅝	131⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2020	145⅝	- ⅛	3.44	3.58
122⅝	109⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2024	121⅝	- ⅛	3.44	3.58
120⅝	108⅝	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	120⅝	- ⅛	3.43	3.56

Source: Finstat

© USM, # Price at suspension, † Ex dividend, ‡ Ex scrip, ▲ Ex rights issue, ▼ Ex all, § Ex capital distribution, * Figures or report awaited. ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIR UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01886 259 783				
Groland Amer	198.40	210.00†	- 2.90	0.70
Groland Equity	270.80	288.00	+ 2.50	2.04
Groland Euro	240.70	254.70	+ 2.50	1.44
Groland Exps Bal	125.80	130.30		0.81
Groland Gilt	77.48	79.87	+ 0.31	4.63
Groland Japan	174.60	184.70†	- 0.90	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	617.30	656.80	+ 5.50	2.60
General Inc	530.30	564.20	+ 4.70	2.60
UK Growth Acc	416.90	443.60	+ 4.50	2.83
UK Growth Inc	277.70	295.50	+ 3.00	2.83
Higher Inc Acc	764.00	812.80	+ 6.40	4.16
Higher Inc Inc	425.10	452.30	+ 3.50	4.16
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	207.80	219.90	+ 1.50	5.46
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	95.54	100.90	+ 0.70	5.46
Nth America	333.20	354.50	- 7.30	
Europe	319.20	339.60	+ 2.00	0.84
Brit Excell	83.33	88.65†	+ 1.11	2.94
Brit Fndmtls Acc	112.00	119.20	- 1.20	4.71
Brit Fndmtls Inc	78.44	83.45	- 0.86	4.71
Global Opps	95.69	101.80†	- 0.20	0.24
Balanced Acc	60.56	64.43	+ 0.40	2.83
Balanced Inc	57.96	61.66	+ 0.39	2.83
Japan Acc	47.20	50.22	- 0.51	
Pac Basin Acc	384.70	409.30	+ 1.40	1.00
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	132.70	140.80†	+ 0.70	7.10
High Inc Equity	175.40	187.60	+ 1.10	4.20
Worldwide Bond	292.70	310.40†	- 0.80	4.51
American Growth	335.80	358.80	- 4.10	0.36
Asian Pacific	314.90	336.50	- 0.80	
Assets & Earnings	286.30	304.60†	+ 1.80	2.85
Euro Capital Acc	160.30	171.40	- 0.30	0.60
Euro Inc	44.81	47.67	+ 0.39	8.43
General	262.70	279.50	+ 3.00	2.98
Global Opps	59.01	62.78	- 0.11	0.48
Japan	124.10	132.70	- 1.40	
Managed Inc	47.52	50.55	+ 0.19	4.00
Mastertrust	153.30	164.00		1.44
US Emerging Cos	177.10	188.40	- 0.80	
Ethical	74.65	79.42	+ 0.69	2.47
International	126.90	135.00	- 0.50	0.60
Dividend & Growth	65.91	70.12	+ 0.21	4.01
Global Gwth & Sec	70.86	75.60	+ 0.15	2.67
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	1967.00	2040.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	56.25	57.38	- 0.58	0.53
Cash	50.10	50.10†	+ 0.04	5.84
Emerging Mkts	63.80	67.62	- 1.42	0.05
European	126.90	132.00	- 2.20	
Europl	1014.30	1087.50	+ 2.00	1.71
Extra Income #	48.12	51.55†	+ 0.11	6.59
Far East Emg Eco	119.50	125.40	+ 0.60	0.50
Fixed Interest #	23.72	24.66†	+ 0.16	9.53
Fund Inv Tst	165.30	173.60		8.96
Japan	185.80	193.20	- 3.40	
Latin American	46.80	49.12	- 1.37	0.99
Pacific	80.65	84.68	+ 0.17	0.31
Property Share	62.41	65.51	- 0.18	2.68
UK Emerging Cos	69.19	73.71	+ 0.08	1.68
UK Growth	49.05	51.98	- 0.38	2.26
Aber World Port #	77.72	79.24†	- 0.75	2.07
Ethical	71.76	74.63†	- 0.11	2.35
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.90	50.90†	+ 0.14	7.38
For AEGON see Matheson				
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5868				
Realti Property	97.41	104.50	+ 0.30	5.10
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	83.01	88.07	+ 0.72	2.30
Income Builder Inc	75.28	80.09†	+ 0.60	2.86
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	257.70	275.40	+ 1.70	2.83
Capital	456.10	486.40	+ 1.10	1.70
Balanced	753.20	806.10†	+ 2.20	2.47
Accumulator	1437.00	1536.00	+ 9.00	2.64
Income Trusts				
American Income	57.71	61.69	+ 0.04	2.89
High Income	423.00	452.10	+ 2.60	3.42
Equity Income	238.10	254.50	+ 1.30	3.27
High Yield	256.40	274.00†	+ 1.00	3.17
Govt Securities	35.01	36.94	+ 0.14	5.74
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	186.40	199.20	- 4.00	0.35
European Growth	42.72	45.52	- 0.45	0.61
International	177.80	190.00	- 1.10	0.17
Japan	204.70	218.10†	- 1.80	0.01
Pacific	399.00	426.50	- 4.40	0.07
Secs of America	531.20	565.70†	- 9.30	0.41
Wwide Asset Val	52.71	56.34	- 0.46	0.21
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	570.40	609.70†	+ 2.20	2.09
Conv & Gilt	44.45	47.51	- 0.14	4.88
Smaller Cos	189.50	202.50†	+ 0.40	1.10
2nd Smaller Cos	179.60	191.90	+ 0.50	1.27
Recovery	151.50	161.90	+ 1.90	1.62
Met Min & Cdty	168.00	179.50†	- 3.80	0.66
Oseas Earnings	380.80	407.00†	+ 2.80	1.66
Technology	208.50	222.80†	- 10.80	0.01
UK Special Sits	520.80	558.50†	+ 3.70	1.56
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Consld Out Pens	110.40	115.10	.	3.04
Foundtn Persl Pens	68.09	68.66	.	1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 680 0033				
Capital	77.10	82.02	+ 0.33	1.77
International	68.97	73.37	+ 0.85	...
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	299.90	322.30	+ 0.20	
Bond	122.00	128.30	+ 0.60	6.54
Brit Smlr Cos	110.90	118.00	- 0.10	1.70
Conv & Gen #	68.67	73.05	+ 0.22	5.39
Europe	237.40	252.70†		0.62
Euro Smlr Cos	106.90	113.90†	- 0.30	0.62
Income Gwth	370.70	394.40†	+ 2.00	3.87
Japan	327.60	349.00	- 4.90	.
Latin American	67.84	72.17	- 0.67	.
Pacific	108.00	112.80†	- 0.70	1.25
UK Smlr Cos	58.66	62.40	- 0.32	1.29
Japan Fd	690.40	701.80	- 9.80	.
Mngd Fd	190.80	202.40	+ 0.40	2.94
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	335.70	355.10	- 0.40	0.81
Capital Gwth	119.00	125.90	+ 1.70	2.61
Wwide Opps	203.80	215.50	- 1.10	0.93
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Brst Inv Fd Inc	388.20	404.40	+ 6.10	2.58
European Bd Inc	98.47	99.86	+ 0.13	6.81
Exempt	77.96	83.15	+ 0.93	4.03
Financial	93.33	99.82†	+ 1.68	2.43
500	468.70	506.70	- 0.20	2.63
General	297.70	318.60	+ 3.70	2.56
Property	237.60	254.00†	+ 0.50	6.47
Trustee	210.90	224.90	+ 3.00	2.73
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.90	100.90	+ 0.10	6.02
Extra Income #	128.00	136.90	+ 1.40	4.90
Gilt & Fxd Int	59.17	61.27†	+ 0.21	8.12
Income	567.60	607.00	+ 6.30	3.78
Income Builder #	67.00	71.46	+ 0.65	5.48
Intl Income	68.48	72.85	+ 0.29	3.18
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	132.10	140.90	+ 1.20	2.23
Leisure	150.30	160.80	+ 2.50	1.10
Recovery	443.90	474.70	+ 5.30	2.80
Smlr Cos Inc	48.40	51.90	- 0.11	2.14
Special Sits	340.90	364.60	+ 6.50	1.50
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	159.50	170.00†	- 2.00	0.30
Aust Acc	269.00	287.80	+ 0.80	1.86
Aust Inc	162.20	173.50†	+ 0.50	1.86
Euro Gwth Inc	165.90	177.20	- 0.50	0.74
-do- Accum	180.20	191.40	- 0.50	0.74
Japan & Gen Inc	162.40	173.00	- 3.70	...
-do- Accum	164.30	175.00	- 3.70	
Japan Spec Sits	74.55	79.42	- 1.74	.
Univ Tech Inc	90.42	96.15	- 1.90	
Worldwide	186.30	197.80	- 0.30	0.62
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	114.70	121.30	- 3.09	..
Amer Smlr Cos	150.49	161.10	- 1.30	.
Convertibles	54.91	58.90	- 0.17	5.40
Eastern	281.50	304.99	- 4.60	0.30
Equity Income	89.49	95.76	+ 2.38	3.80
European Growth	328.60	348.90	+ 1.60	0.80
Europa	269.90	286.90†	- 0.70	0.30
German Growth	79.95	84.82	+ 0.20	0.50
Global Bond	70.04	73.75	+ 0.83	6.50
Global Growth	140.10	149.20†	- 1.30	.
Japan Growth	205.20	218.20	- 1.90	.
Japan Sunrise	156.60	166.79	+ 0.90	.
Korea Trust	74.24	80.98	- 5.79	..
Portfolio	138.40	148.10	+ 0.70	2.30
-do- Accum	257.70	275.90	+ 1.30	2.30
UK Growth	88.16	94.32	+ 1.07	2.68
UK Smaller Cos	83.36	90.77	+ 0.56	2.50
Select Managers	81.78	87.68	+ 0.66	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	84.40	89.79	- 2.17	
Special Oppor Inc	57.14	60.79	- 1.60	.
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0141 228 6020				
Balanced Growth	124.88	132.15	+ 1.21	1.52
-do- Accum	142.89	151.21	+ 1.39	1.52
Smaller Cos	121.30	128.36†	- 4.30	0.81
Higher Yield #	51.61	54.62	+ 0.36	4.35
American Gth Inc	85.59	90.57	- 1.65	
European Growth	143.74	152.11	- 3.52	0.21
-do- Accum	146.57	155.10	- 3.59	0.21
Global Bond Inc #	27.73	28.73†	- 0.01	7.07
Mngd Ptflo Inc	46.89	49.59	- 0.38	1.40
-do- Accum	48.09	50.86	- 0.39	1.40
Int Spec Opps	139.29	147.39	+ 1.99	
Pacific Gth	135.37	143.25	- 0.74	0.30
UK General #	84.42	89.34†	- 0.43	2.98
-do- Accum #	88.91	94.09	+ 0.59	2.98
Japan	60.79	64.33	- 0.82	..
Gilt & Fixed Int #	102.37	108.08†	+ 0.42	8.48
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	68.05	68.92	+ 0.19	6.16
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	169.10	179.90†	+ 0.78	1.79
UK Growth	191.48	203.60	+ 2.40	2.84
UK Income	142.50	151.80	+ 1.50	4.28
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	216.90	229.90	+ 1.10	1.72
-do- Income Dist	116.30	123.30†	+ 0.80	4.05
-do- Accum	366.10	388.10	+ 2.00	4.05
Gilt & Fxd Int	42.11	44.64	- 0.10	8.09
Growth Units	231.90	247.70	- 3.10	2.09
Bond	179.40	189.90	+ 0.70	6.17
Intl Growth	233.40	248.20	- 3.20	0.30
North American	234.10	249.20	- 2.70	0.26
Far East	290.30	310.50	- 0.90	1.09
UK Smaller Cos	196.40	210.10	+ 1.60	1.45
European	88.33	93.93	- 1.11	0.86
Japanese Growth	48.27	51.28	- 0.84	.
High Income	205.30	219.40	+ 1.90	4.00
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7483 Enq 0161 831 7438 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	188.10	200.70	- 3.50	..
European Inc	86.27	91.42	- 0.03	1.02
Smaller Cos (4-1)	91.99	97.67	+ 0.08	1.45
Growth	484.20	515.20	+ 3.00	1.73
Income & Growth #	437.70	465.30	+ 1.70	3.89
-do- Accum #	636.70	677.40	+ 2.30	3.89
Japan & Gen	70.30	74.64	- 1.57	
Master Portfolio	£110.65	£114.57	+ 6.00	2.16
-do- Accum	£134.13	£138.94	+ 7.00	2.16
Special Sits	112.80	120.10	+ 0.80	1.85
High Yield	£14.08	£14.47†	+ 13.00	4.42

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	94.70	101.12	+ 0.60	2.54
American Portfolio	113.42	120.29†	- 0.07	0.93
European Portfolio	110.68	117.99	- 0.94	0.49
High Income	52.53	52.61†	- 0.01	8.00
Japanese Portfolio	63.98	73.44	- 0.84	
Pacific Portfolio	145.51	156.47†	- 0.26	1.43
UK Inc & Growth	87.44	93.65	+ 1.00	3.05
Utility & Bond	57.10	57.78	- 0.78	6.61
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	719.06	729.92	- 2.52	4.41
Fxd Int Sec	157.49	158.13	- 0.35	9.04
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	721.20	722.63	- 1.26	4.35
Investment Acc	531.78	632.26		5.56
Fixed Int Inc	130.38	130.90	+ 0.02	8.73
Fixed Int Acc	216.37	217.83	+ 0.02	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	93.65	98.78	+ 0.02	3.01
Beck Bio-Tech	41.42	44.70†	- 0.82	.
Acorn Ethical Tst	167.77	176.17†	- 3.61	0.73
City Fin Accum	77.26	81.13	- 0.30	2.06
City Fin America	105.59	110.69	- 0.82	
City Fin Intl	87.84	92.24†	- 0.17	0.89
City Fin Japan	151.61	161.02	- 1.99	
Friars Hse Cap	286.94	310.47	- 0.57	1.38
Friars Hse Inc	191.78	208.34†	- 1.26	4.32
Buckley Wrld Grth	139.57	147.94	- 1.09	
Fairmnt Cap Gth	143.32	150.87†	- 2.34	
Fairmount Intl	155.14	163.31†	- 1.42	
J Sd Inc/Gth Inc	55.64	58.43†	- 1.47	2.45
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin. 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	54.93	58.28	- 0.14	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	75.32	80.13	- 1.32	
Dragon Growth	67.88	72.59	- 0.97	0.89
Equity High Inc	87.40	92.98†	+ 0.56	4.08
-do- Accum	122.17	129.97	+ 0.79	4.08
Extra Income Inc	27.07	28.51	+ 0.06	7.06
Extra Income Acc	28.17	29.67	+ 0.09	7.06
European Gwth	57.40	60.90	+ 0.14	1.11
Evergreen	29.15	31.17	- 0.03	
General Equity	95.25	101.06	- 1.38	2.89
Japan Growth	52.16	55.49	- 1.28	
Pedigree Gwth	57.37	61.05	+ 0.39	2.81
Fxd Smr Cos Inc	33.39	35.52	+ 0.18	1.58
-do- Accum	35.16	37.40	+ 0.19	1.58
Retirement Inc #	26.80	28.51	+ 0.15	5.86
Special Sits	42.32	45.02	- 0.04	2.19
UK & Overseas	54.44	57.76	- 0.81	0.79
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
Capital	75.63	78.78	- 1.01	1.93
Balanced	65.59	68.22	+ 0.77	4.11
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	171.57	182.52	+ 2.86	4.79
Fixed & Convertible	41.30	43.94	+ 0.28	6.62
Monthly Inc Plus	50.36	53.57	- 0.24	8.36
Preference Share	47.27	50.79	- 0.13	7.75
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	131.14	139.51	- 2.21	5.82
Managed Fund	73.36	78.04	+ 0.45	3.02
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	43.51	46.29	+ 0.29	1.76
-do- Accum	50.64	53.87	+ 0.33	1.76
UK & General	88.08	94.35	+ 1.22	2.71
-do- Accum	113.82	121.09	+ 1.58	2.71
UK Growth	168.79	179.56	+ 4.60	2.25
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	201.25	214.10	+ 1.68	0.11
Far Eastern Gwth	132.08	140.51	- 1.37	
Global Bond	84.53	89.83	- 0.42	5.89
Japan Growth	117.87	125.39	- 2.82	
North Amer Grth	211.65	224.52	- 3.20	
Oriental Growth	79.45	84.52	- 0.71	0.06
Worldwide Growth	71.92	76.51	- 0.37	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.36	92.36	+ 0.09	6.12
Homemaker Fund	87.83	93.44	+ 0.50	1.62
Quilter Fund	144.90	154.15	+ 2.10	1.97
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	33.34	35.68	+ 0.01	3.34
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	168.70	179.50†	- 1.40	1.80
Income	70.79	75.31	- 0.47	5.81
European	65.52	69.70	- 0.36	0.64
Recovery	166.90	177.60	+ 1.70	2.09
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	906.50	921.80†		3.47
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	93.22	99.16	- 0.09	1.51
Income #	265.80	282.70	+ 2.80	4.23
-do- Accum #	681.60	725.10	+ 6.70	4.24
Smaller Cos	200.00	212.70	+ 1.20	0.97
-do- Accum	246.10	261.80	+ 1.40	0.97
Inv Portfolio	90.67	96.45	+ 0.63	1.55
High Inc Port #	77.64	82.59	+ 0.72	4.32
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	1531.10	1585.10†	- 5.30	.
Japan Small Cos	1224.40	1249.10†	+ 19.30	.
UK Small Cos	1913.20	1999.10	- 4.20	.
US Small Cos	1960.60	1998.80†	- 0.30	
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	218.50	230.00	...	2.95
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 315 2500				
European Gwth	297.20	314.20	- 1.80	0.87
New Asia	218.70	233.00	- 2.40	0.25
Japan Growth	111.40	118.60	- 0.60	
Jap Smlr Co	453.10	480.70	+ 4.10	
Nth Amer	355.40	378.00	- 1.70	0.78
UK Inc & Grth	233.40	249.00	+ 3.40	2.85
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	155.10	165.00†	+ 1.50	1.62
UK High Inc Inc	164.50	174.90†	+ 1.70	4.12
-do- Accum	217.90	231.80†	+ 2.30	4.12
UK Pref & F I Inc	60.06	63.72†	+ 0.37	4.92
Environmtl Opps	92.28	98.17	+ 0.57	0.05
UK Smlr Cos #	80.23	84.87	- 0.44	0.01
Extra Income Inc	49.48	52.61	+ 0.26	7.80
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 530				
American	155.40	164.90†	- 0.30	1.06
Convertibles #	21.13	22.45†	- 0.01	6.24
Equity Income #	134.30	142.70†	+ 1.10	3.71
EuroFund	52.60	55.75	- 0.02	0.35
Financial	49.86	52.98	- 0.08	1.42
Growth & Inc #	265.40	282.00	+ 2.20	2.73
High Dist #	168.10	178.60†	+ 1.30	4.20
International	412.00	437.80	- 3.00	0.11
Intl Cap Inc	98.51	105.20	- 0.80	2.61
Latin American	25.33	26.91	- 0.69	.
Pacific	81.10	86.17	- 0.58	.
Pref High Inc	22.03	23.41		7.05
Tokyo	232.40	246.80	- 0.80	..
UK Smaller Cos	250.60	266.30	- 0.50	1.03
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
BRI Director Digs	101.51	108.57	+ 2.24	1.47
Growth Acc	244.54	261.11	. .	0.68
Income	582.62	619.67	- 1.66	5.19
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	218.10	232.00	+ 0.20	1.19
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	85.74	90.25	- 0.56	2.03
Ethical Tst	46.36	48.80	- 0.21	1.33
Far Eastern	302.44	318.36	- 3.32	1.66
High Income	134.20	141.26†	+ 0.35	4.86
Intl Growth	124.02	130.55	- 1.71	0.45
North American	135.28	142.40	- 2.81	1.53
Pelican	128.59	135.36	+ 0.11	3.32
Smaller Cos	66.36	69.85†	+ 0.04	2.88
Special Sits	88.16	92.80	- 0.12	3.24
Tst of Inv Tsts	198.24	208.57	- 0.11	1.33
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	201.62	214.49	- 0.27	1.32
Smaller Cos Acc	356.82	379.60	- 0.45	1.32
Recovery	50.31	53.52†	+ 0.42	1.52
Recovery Acc	51.52	54.81†	+ 0.46	1.52
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	88.57	94.08	- 0.10	.
Fd of Inv Tsts	48.75	52.00	+ 0.33	0.56
High Income #	41.16	44.11	- 0.01	10.43
Warrant	52.86	57.48	+ 0.51	...
Zero Preference	42.30	44.86†	+ 0.17	.
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	81.87	86.88	+ 0.46	3.29
Family Income Tst	45.49	45.49	+ 0.40	6.64
Family Trust	89.30	95.00	- 1.58	2.55
United Charities	266.10	283.00	+ 1.00	5.65
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	..	6.10
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	28.34	28.43†	+ 0.14	7.03
Intl Bond	30.41	31.55	- 0.15	5.32
Income Funds				
High Income	25.59	26.90†	+ 0.11	5.38
Income Plus	120.70	128.40†	+ 0.80	4.12
Amer Eq Inc	57.60	61.02	- 0.67	1.45
European Income	45.20	48.06	+ 0.08	2.39
Far East Inc	68.93	71.00†	- 0.69	2.32
Global Convertible	24.69	26.23	- 0.06	2.66
UK Div Grth	28.07	29.85	+ 0.29	2.22
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	63.52	67.76	- 0.04	
American	302.80	320.80	- 3.50	...
Amer Spec Sits	165.80	176.70	- 2.00	..
Japan Smaller Cos	36.25	38.67	- 0.49	..
European	195.50	207.50	- 1.20	0.85
European Opps	69.64	74.05	- 0.59	0.15
Global Priv	27.33	29.08	- 0.53	0.77
UK Growth	107.30	114.10	+ 2.30	1.25
Growth & Inc	160.70	170.90	+ 1.70	2.76
Intl PEP	42.88	45.60	- 0.27	1.06
Japan Spec Sits	90.33	96.18	- 0.15	.
Japan	186.40	198.20	- 4.50	..
Managed Intl	321.30	341.60	- 4.00	0.44
Moneybuilder	60.11	63.92	...	
Recovery	51.17	54.41	+ 0.66	1.42
South E Asia	167.80	179.00	- 1.40	1.06
Special Sits	606.98	645.30	+ 10.30	0.71
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	112.20	112.20	+ 0.09	6.10
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	142.60	145.40	..	2.02
Inc Ptflo #	88.14	90.71†	+ 0.41	3.40
Cap Ptflo	154.80	157.20	+ 0.50	1.44
General Opps	133.80	135.40†	+ 0.29	3.43
Growth Inc	34.07	34.79†	+ 0.16	1.34
Private Portfolio	453.20	462.40	- 0.90	1.84
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Enq 0171 454 1434 Dlg 01277 261 010				
European	124.00	131.80	+ 0.40	0.60
Emrg Asian	154.20	164.90	- 1.70	..
High Income	21.33	22.65†	+ 0.16	9.93
UK Growth	128.40	136.90	+ 1.40	2.43
UK Income	106.90	114.10†	+ 1.50	4.29
US Smaller Cos	378.00	403.10	- 2.60	0.36
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
-do- Inv Tst Inc	77.66	81.66	- 0.01	4.16
Investment Trust	100.25	105.42	+ 0.41	...
UK Smaller Cos	92.09	96.83	+ 0.10	0.98

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	72.36	77.09	- 1.36	
-do- Accum	72.36	77.09	- 1.36	..
Amer Smlr Cos	610.50	652.60	- 7.10	
-do- Accum	632.80	676.90	- 7.40	
Capital Tst	337.50	358.90	+ 1.20	1.40
-do- Accum	490.10	521.20	+ 1.80	1.40
Cont Smlr Cos	56.53	60.27	- 0.63	0.58
-do- Accum	59.65	63.59	- 0.67	0.58
Convertible	133.70	142.20	+ 0.40	5.41
-do- Accum	275.80	293.30	+ 0.80	5.41
Emerging Markets	63.99	68.36	- 0.27	
-do- Accum	64.23	68.61	- 0.28	
European	127.50	136.00		0.40
-do- Accum	134.10	142.00		0.40
Extra Income	359.90	382.80	+ 1.80	3.85
-do- Accum	552.70	587.80	+ 2.70	3.85
Financial	149.00	159.70†	+ 0.90	0.52
-do- Accum	157.80	169.00†	+ 0.80	0.52
Gilt Trust	65.24	67.27	+ 0.21	5.96
-do- Accum	96.08	99.07	+ 0.32	5.96
Health Fund Inc	216.10	230.90†	+ 3.90	
-do- Accum	216.10	230.90†	+ 3.90	..
Income & Growth	307.10	320.30†	+ 2.10	3.36
-do- Accum	323.70	344.30†	+ 3.30	3.36
Intl Growth	403.50	430.90†	- 4.20	..
-do- Accum	448.10	478.40†	- 4.80	
Japan & Gen	185.30	197.60	- 0.90	
-do- Accum	187.10	199.60	- 0.90	
Monthly Inc #	177.50	188.70†	+ 0.50	3.65
Managed Port Inc	113.50	119.50	+ 0.20	2.00
-do- Accum	121.90	128.30	+ 0.10	2.00
Quarterly Income #	53.18	57.09†	+ 0.43	3.46
-do- Accum #	58.97	63.30†	+ 0.47	3.46
Recovery	347.80	371.90	- 1.50	0.09
-do- Accum	410.50	438.90	- 1.80	0.09
UK Growth	59.69	63.82	+ 0.71	2.44
-do- Accum	63.26	67.64	+ 0.75	2.44
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01705 881330 Enq 01705 881340				
FP American	55.51	59.65†	- 0.71	0.41
FP Am Smlr Cos	172.70	184.70	+ 2.30	.
FP Asian Growth	264.00	282.30†	- 1.30	
FP Australian	379.50	403.90	+ 6.00	
FP Equity Dist	415.70	442.20†	+ 4.80	2.60
-do- Accum	901.60	959.10†	+ 10.50	2.60
FP Euro Gth	244.70	260.30	+ 0.30	0.16
-do- Accum	266.10	283.08	+ 0.40	0.16
FP Intl Bond	61.96	65.56	- 0.06	4.60
FP Intl Gth Dist	35.65	38.04†	- 0.14	0.46
-do- Accum	52.07	55.57†	- 0.19	0.46
FP Pac Basin Acc	210.70	225.20†	- 1.30	
FP Income	56.36	59.05	+ 0.73	5.07
-do- Accum	187.10	199.50	+ 2.40	5.07
FP Jap Smlr Cos	305.70	326.00	- 5.20	
FP Monthly Dist	73.47	78.40	+ 0.55	5.05
FP Stg Deposit	100.90	100.90		6.00
FP Tokyo	82.53	88.03	- 1.38	
FP UK Focus	39.00	41.93†	+ 0.54	2.56
FP UK Growth	186.40	198.80	+ 2.40	2.67
-do- Accum	366.00	390.40	+ 4.70	2.67
Stewardship Dist	371.10	394.70†	+ 2.40	1.92
-do- Accum	461.90	491.30†	+ 2.90	1.92
Stwdship Inc Dist	74.69	79.45	+ 0.19	4.76
-do- Accum	99.46	105.80	+ 0.30	4.76
N Am Stshp Dist	115.80	123.10	- 2.80	0.95
-do- Accum	123.70	131.50	- 3.00	0.95
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	117.90	125.40	+ 0.10	1.18
Open Cap Gth Acc	121.80	129.50		0.08
Cap Gth Inc Inc	113.10	120.30	+ 0.10	2.40
Cap Gth Inc Acc	117.10	124.50	+ 0.20	2.40
Opn Cp Gth & Ic	116.60	124.00		3.30
Opn Cp Gth & Ac	121.10	128.80	+ 0.10	3.30
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	266.80	280.30†	+ 2.50	2.20
Cash	49.53	50.27†	+ 0.04	5.29
Growth Portfolio	83.54	88.56	- 0.46	0.93
Income Portfolio	66.80	70.65†	+ 0.43	4.36
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD				
0171 296 6441				
Special Sits	207.80	222.20	- 1.20	1.53
Dividend	94.06	100.60	+ 0.97	4.74
Ins Gth & Inc	236.80	253.30	+ 1.50	3.12
UK & Gen	48.41	51.77	+ 0.68	2.53
Fund of Funds	70.35	75.24	+ 0.41	
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
Amer Spec Sits	238.30	254.90	+ 10.10	
European	595.30	635.80	- 14.40	0.30
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	51.34	54.72	- 0.14	4.96
-do- Accum	55.89	59.57	- 0.14	4.96
Far East & Gen	262.30	280.60†	- 5.80	
Germany	120.40	127.60	- 0.80	
High Yield #	50.44	53.31†	+ 0.37	7.97
-do- Accum #	52.98	55.99	+ 0.39	7.97
Income Inc	171.60	183.60	+ 2.20	4.28
-do- Accum	189.30	202.50	+ 2.40	4.28
International	356.20	380.60	- 2.80	
Intl Income	91.78	97.12†	+ 0.34	3.69
Japan & General	442.20	470.80	- 2.80	
Korean Securities	64.89	68.40	- 4.98	..
Orient Acc	142.60	152.60	+ 0.30	0.22
Smlr Cos Div Inc	45.11	48.25	- 0.10	4.18
-do- Accum	49.82	53.29	- 0.10	4.18
UK Capital Inc	181.00	193.60	+ 2.10	1.48
UK Capital Acc	319.20	341.40	+ 3.80	1.48
UK Spec Sits	92.94	99.40	+ 0.58	1.30
US & General	176.00	186.80	- 2.30	
Wwide Spec Sits	154.40	164.90	- 1.20	.
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2080 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	58.39	60.11	+ 0.78	1.85
Cash Trust	141.46	141.46†	+ 0.10	6.19
Practical Inv Inc #	119.87	128.20	+ 0.57	2.64
-do- Accum #	281.32	300.88	+ 1.37	2.64
UK Index	166.66	167.50	+ 1.50	3.29
UK Smaller Cos	145.22	155.32	+ 0.83	0.75
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	24.78	25.68	+ 0.14	7.48
High Income	33.98	36.29†	+ 0.08	5.18
UK Equity Income	148.91	159.26	+ 0.82	3.08
Global Bond	30.99	32.12	- 0.09	5.01
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	43.14	46.14	- 0.48	
Global Managed	143.52	152.59	- 1.02	1.58
Gold & Intl Res	107.23	114.68	- 3.84	0.98
Global Utilities	138.50	147.88†	- 2.53	1.74
Overseas Funds				
American	176.81	188.06	- 3.47	0.92
European	119.06	126.19	- 0.06	0.94
Euro Sel Opps	175.71	186.68	- 0.35	
Amer Emerging	136.70	146.20†	- 2.60	..
Hong Kong	146.42	156.59	- 1.35	2.06
Japan	248.77	264.20	- 4.39	
Pacific Growth	217.08	232.18	- 1.78	
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Managed Equity	236.27	236.27	+ 0.54	2.15
Long Term Bal	255.65	255.65	- 2.07	3.16
Med Term Bal	217.78	217.78	+ 1.02	3.15
UK Equity	270.42	270.42†	+ 1.16	2.60
UK Emerging Cos	153.87	153.87†	- 0.80	2.15
American	294.26	294.26	- 4.07	1.17
Japan	131.57	131.57	- 1.26	
European	308.39	308.39	+ 1.25	1.05
Index Linked Gilt	180.59	180.59†	+ 0.02	2.78
Fixed Interest	173.56	173.56†	+ 1.31	6.31
Amer Emerging	315.79	315.79	- 8.45	
Pacific	240.79	240.79†	- 2.20	0.83
Emerging Mkts	116.72	116.72	- 1.33	0.75
Index Strat Japan	155.62	155.62	- 1.56	0.19
-do- Pacific (Ex)	189.91	189.91	- 0.87	1.46
-do- Cont Europe	169.32	169.32	- 1.75	1.89
Index Strat USA	172.78	172.78	- 0.87	1.81
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	110.83	117.90	+ 0.27	..
Med Term Bal	102.64	109.19	- 0.47	
Long Term Bal	114.88	122.21	- 0.99	.
UK Equity	125.14	133.12	+ 0.57	.
UK Emerging Cos	72.13	76.73	- 0.40	.
American	138.54	145.28	- 2.01	...
Japan	62.96	66.98	- 0.64	..
European	126.16	134.34	+ 0.55	.
Fixed Interest	88.22	93.86	+ 0.71	.
Index Linked Gilt	80.43	85.56	+ 0.04	.
Deposit	84.01	89.38	+ 0.07	
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	151.60	159.58	- 0.21	0.53
BrsW Gth Port	67.68	71.64	- 1.36	0.60
-do- Inc Port Inc	60.38	63.73†	+ 0.08	3.50
-do- Wwide Port	57.88	61.09	- 0.22	0.10
Shaw Utilities	63.51	67.03†	- 2.52	3.15
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Stg & Intl Inc	597.51	635.65	- 1.10	2.26
-do- Accum	664.55	706.97	- 1.22	2.26
European Inc	158.49	169.64	+ 0.65	1.29
Amalgam Inc	156.69	166.00	+ 3.04	
N America Inc	363.15	386.33	+ 3.82	0.80
Far East Inc	371.77	395.50	- 12.35	..
-do- Accum	385.04	409.62	- 12.79	..
UK Divid Inc	192.55	204.84	+ 5.27	3.85
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7988				
UK Equity Inc	97.82	104.61	+ 0.90	4.35
UK Small Cos	59.44	63.56	+ 0.27	0.71
British Growth	66.58	71.20	+ 1.09	2.44
American Growth	233.74	250.38	- 3.98	.
Japan Gwth	66.52	71.14	- 0.93	.
Greater China	177.31	189.63	- 2.65	0.56
Pacific Strategy	153.38	164.03	- 0.78	0.55
European Gwth	96.33	102.73†	- 0.84	0.69
Intl Growth	158.48	167.35	- 4.38	
US Index (£)	16.9984	17.9785	- 0.30	4.60
FT-SE Mid 250 Ind	82.54	88.27	+ 0.37	2.13
Monthly Income	40.84	43.33†	+ 0.09	8.00
MIS Unit Trust Dealing: 071 865 0033				
Brd UK Index (£)	13.4871	14.2384	+ 0.35	3.50
GRANVILLE UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 488 1212				
Small Cos	101.19	107.61	+ 4.71	1.42
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 538 9668				
European	526.80	562.80†	- 1.20	0.50
Gilt & Fixed	134.10	142.30	+ 0.90	5.58
Growth Equity	383.80	410.00†	+ 3.30	1.40
Income Trust	145.50	155.40	+ 0.80	3.27
International	201.50	215.20	- 0.10	0.15
Japan Trust	132.00	141.00	- 2.10	
Nth American	327.30	349.60	- 4.40	
Pacific	554.80	592.70	- 1.30	0.65
Guardhill	581.20	620.90	+ 3.80	1.48
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
EMU Trust	107.71	111.81†	- 0.15	6.23
Global High Inc	103.13	107.05	- 0.53	5.81
Corporate Bond	107.32	111.39	+ 0.28	6.74
Eqty & Bond Inc	108.97	115.75	+ 0.18	5.06
European Growth	113.26	120.43	- 0.74	
Intl PEP Trust	66.33	70.52	- 0.37	
Equity Inc	128.63	136.97†	- 0.38	4.10
-do- Accum	183.31	194.90	- 0.55	4.10
Recovery	339.70	361.10	- 0.30	2.18
-do- Accum	398.20	423.30	- 0.38	2.18
St Vinc High Inc	128.46	130.38	+ 0.55	6.88
UK Emerg Cos	267.80	284.80†	- 2.30	1.93
UK Smlr Cos	360.10	388.80	+ 15.10	2.48
Glob Prv Tst	99.50	105.80	+ 0.28	1.34
-do- Accum	101.36	107.76	+ 0.28	1.34
Inc Share Tst	89.45	95.11†	- 0.13	7.02
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 0171 220 5050				
Growth	29.70	31.49	+ 0.12	1.88
Growth Acc	30.08	31.89	+ 0.12	1.88
Income	29.28	31.07†	+ 0.33	4.37
Income Acc	30.32	32.15	+ 0.35	4.37
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 300				
Model Ptflo	225.80	237.80	+ 3.60	2.55
Smaller Cos	34.22	36.40	+ 0.36	1.07
HENDERSON TOUCHE REMNANT				
Enquiries: 01277 263 290 Dealing: 01277 234 772				
UK Funds				
Special Sits	341.15	365.63	- 0.86	1.22
Best of British	67.65	71.91†	+ 0.89	2.69
UK Smaller Cos	137.83	146.16	- 0.35	1.55
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	290.07	308.90†	+ 1.99	3.71
-do- Accum #	803.59	855.89	+ 5.48	3.71
High Income	329.60	351.27	+ 2.72	4.41
Extra Income #	289.12	307.47†	+ 3.52	5.03
Pref & Bond	48.44	50.06	+ 0.12	8.30
International				
International	300.54	320.32	- 3.47	.
Global Bond	57.65	60.68†	- 0.28	5.69
Intl Port Tst	91.80	98.18†	- 0.03	0.50
Global Tech	234.58	250.74†	- 8.81	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	175.05	187.19†	- 2.19	0.80
European	533.15	565.01	- 5.64	0.48
European Income #	86.69	91.66	+ 0.15	2.80

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos	156.92	167.24	- 0.21	0.90
Eur Sp Sits	75.96	80.98	- 1.65	1.30
-do- Accum	81.39	86.75	- 1.76	1.30
Japan Trust	227.56	242.57	- 0.91	
Japan Special Sits	221.17	235.79	- 0.11	
Pacific Smlr Cos	230.36	245.48	- 2.28	.
North American	288.66	306.56	- 1.83	
American Smaller	144.95	154.95	- 1.42	.
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0181 686 4355				
British	111.25	118.49†	+ 1.10	1.83
Capital	191.79	200.83	+ 0.73	1.36
Dollar	438.28	458.94	- 10.71	
Enterprise Gth	370.34	387.79	+ 2.44	1.48
European	252.43	264.33	- 0.37	0.49
Far East	311.40	326.07†	- 1.24	..
Financial	903.08	1010.08	+ 7.40	1.80
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	26.59	27.65	- 0.13	6.63
High Yield	107.18	112.23†	+ 0.98	3.68
Income & Growth	153.89	161.14†	+ 1.61	3.15
International	280.77	294.00	- 2.95	.
Japanese General	215.39	225.54†	- 4.45	
Japan Tech	93.47	97.87	- 3.22	
Nat Resources	80.22	84.00	- 0.39	
Portfolio	79.86	83.62	- 0.30	1.34
Smaller Cos	142.09	148.79	+ 0.54	0.98
Special Sits	176.74	185.07	+ 2.36	0.86
UK Emerging Cos	106.44	111.45	+ 1.03	0.89
US Smaller Cos	125.03	130.92	- 1.11	.
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers: 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
UF Funds				
Balanced #	109.50	116.90†	- 0.50	5.81
Capital	664.80	708.50	+ 11.50	2.17
Income #	612.40	653.60	+ 4.80	5.75
Footsie Fund	60.55	60.85†	+ 0.60	2.95
Trade Index	113.60	120.29	+ 0.40	2.35
UK Index	156.20	165.30	+ 1.60	3.22
International Funds				
American Growth	568.70	604.50	- 4.10	0.46
American Index	259.00	274.10	- 1.20	1.23
European Growth	125.40	133.80	- 0.10	0.16
Eurotrack 100	181.90	192.50	+ 0.80	1.00
Global Bond	23.34	24.62	- 0.11	5.08
Japan Growth	287.80	307.00	- 5.20	
Japan Index	83.07	87.90	- 0.85	0.19
Japan Smlr Cos	31.59	33.71	+ 0.23	
Far Eastern Funds				
Asian	60.47	64.54	- 0.59	0.17
Hong Kong Gwth	117.10	125.00	- 0.90	1.28
Spore & Mlyca Gth	79.43	84.77	+ 1.66	
Tiger Index	202.30	214.18	- 2.30	0.45
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	41.64	43.79	+ 0.32	0.58
General Funds				
Managed	81.14	84.35†	- 0.21	1.39
Rupert Cand Fnd	94.80	98.54	+ 0.86	2.19
UK Growth	66.80	68.40†	- 0.62	2.13
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc	86.07	89.47	+ 0.86	6.53
Gilt & Fixed Int	27.75	28.63	+ 0.15	7.67
UK Inc & Gwth	44.06	45.80†	+ 0.25	3.39
UK Income	344.40	358.00†	+ 3.40	4.94
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	58.86	61.50	- 0.03	0.36
Amer Smlr Cos	140.60	146.20	- 1.00	
-do- Accum	142.10	147.70	- 1.10	
Europe Gth	182.90	189.70	- 2.20	
-do- Accum	189.40	196.50	- 2.30	.
Euro Smaller Cos	34.48	35.84	+ 0.06	
French Growth	83.21	86.50	+ 0.60	0.32
-do- Accum	89.27	92.80	+ 0.64	0.32
H Kong & China	85.07	88.43	- 0.10	1.42
Intl Growth	63.75	66.27†	- 0.11	0.41
-do- Accum	64.84	67.19†	- 0.12	0.41
Japan Gth	33.55	34.88	- 0.66	
-do- Accum	33.55	34.88	- 0.66	.
Japan Smaller Cos	39.24	40.79	- 1.32	
Glob Emg Mkts	92.92	95.97	- 2.28	.
-do- Accum	92.98	96.66	- 2.30	
SE Asia	330.40	343.50	- 2.30	0.03
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond	57.01	58.79†	- 0.13	5.85
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 261010				
Sector Value Inc	98.45	103.70	+ 1.60	4.82
Sector Value Gwth	99.14	104.40	+ 1.60	1.92
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	189.30	201.30	- 8.50	..
Income	187.40	199.35	+ 1.34	3.06
UK Growth	73.68	78.38	+ 0.92	0.45
International	80.89	86.04	- 0.14	0.07
Ecology	91.56	97.40	+ 0.35	1.10
European	143.51	152.66	- 0.48	.
Far Eastern	300.90	319.00	- 7.20	..
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers. 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	101.20	104.60†	+ 0.20	7.36
Gilt Yield	120.30	127.00†	+ 0.80	6.69

British brokers are now taking the German line.

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Global Income	221.80	236.00†	- 0.70	3.67
High Yield	145.40	154.70	+ 0.90	5.78
-do- Accum	458.80	488.10	+ 2.80	5.78
Smlr Cos Dvr	55.28	58.81†	+ 0.24	2.91
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	128.10	136.30		
Asian Growth	324.40	345.10	- 1.10	0.24
-do- Accum	381.20	405.50	- 1.30	0.24
North American	98.14	104.40†	- 1.30	0.25
European Special	112.90	120.10	- 2.90	0.10
European	163.50	173.90†	- 1.30	0.47
-do- Accum	215.60	229.40†	- 1.60	0.47
Global Eqty Inc	114.70	121.80	+ 0.50	2.11
Japan	424.10	451.20	- 6.00	.
Japanese Special	229.70	244.40	- 2.00	..
Smaller Cos	123.80	131.70†	+ 1.60	1.16
UK Equity Growth	44.70	47.55	+ 0.71	1.55
UK Index Inc	310.40	312.00†	+ 1.90	3.49
Blackstn Tst	107.40	109.40		2.74
-do- Accum	101.40	108.40	...	2.74
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 407 5966				
Bridge Income	278.03	295.78†	+ 1.27	6.23
Inc & Growth Inc	59.87	63.48	+ 0.16	4.30
Smaller Cos #	70.75	75.27	+ 0.78	1.34
LAURENTIAN UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 01452 371 500 Dlg: 01452 371 623				
Growth Trust	271.60	288.90†	+ 0.80	1.86
High Income	112.40	119.50		4.35
International	107.30	114.10	- 1.30	0.52
European Trust	81.97	87.13	+ 0.61	0.87
Japanese Trust	43.59	46.37	- 0.70	
American Trust	105.93	112.68	- 1.80	
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	411.10	436.20	+ 3.90	2.35
UK Inc/Gth	441.70	468.70	+ 2.80	2.98
UK Income	304.60	323.20	+ 2.00	3.71
UK Sm Cos	263.10	281.40	+ 1.30	1.75
Euro Gwth	143.00	152.70	+ 0.50	
N Amer Gwth	114.40	121.40	- 1.20	0.20
Japan Growth	67.78	71.91	- 0.88	
Money Mkt	128.551	128.551	+ 0.60	0.000
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 305				
Equity Dist	536.60	570.90	+ 4.90	2.60
-do- Accum	£10.83	£11.52	+ 10.00	2.61
Equity Income #	104.30	111.00	+ 1.46	4.35
UK Tactical Allocn	62.64	66.52†	+ 0.85	4.14
European	130.80	139.10	+ 0.20	1.05
Far Eastern	221.90	236.10	- 1.50	.
Fixed Interest	54.07	57.51†	+ 0.33	7.02
Gilt	92.53	98.12	+ 0.58	6.25
Global Growth	78.61	83.63†	- 0.49	0.36
Intl Bond	56.21	59.70	- 0.21	5.28
Japanese	74.36	79.11†	- 0.77	
North American	189.20	201.30	+ 0.10	0.60
Pacific Growth	111.40	118.50	+ 0.20	0.24
UK Index	70.46	73.99	+ 0.64	3.05
UK Recovery	104.50	111.20	+ 0.80	1.97
UK Smaller Cos	140.10	149.00	+ 0.80	1.42
US Index	76.59	80.83†	- 0.30	1.40
European Index	84.07	88.73	- 0.19	2.18
Japan Index	42.59	44.95	- 0.46	
Worldwide	91.36	97.19†	+ 0.18	1.44
LINCOLN NATIONAL				
0181 900 8876 Dealing: 0800 282 821				
Growth	53.23	56.63	+ 0.67	2.15
Income	63.02	67.40	+ 0.35	2.99
Far East	54.61	58.40	- 0.87	.
North American	122.70	132.20	- 4.00	
Global	105.10	112.40	- 1.10	0.19
European	92.87	99.32	+ 0.49	0.65
Japan	107.20	114.60	- 1.50	
Intl Currency Bd	62.84	66.60	- 0.09	4.20
SE Asia	104.20	111.40	- 1.60	
UK Cap Growth	97.53	104.30	+ 1.80	1.09
Recovery Trust	73.20	77.87†	+ 2.62	1.42
Managed	72.26	76.87	+ 1.15	2.00
Cash	51.39	51.39	- 0.01	5.04
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 339 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	376.90	401.00	+ 4.60	2.56
-do- Accum	879.80	936.00	+ 10.70	2.88
Cont Euro Gth	71.96	75.74†	+ 0.37	1.20
-do- Accum	77.43	81.51	+ 0.40	1.20
Extra Inc	272.40	289.80†	- 2.60	4.13
-do- Accum	732.60	779.40	+ 6.90	4.13
FTSE 100 Inc	113.00	120.30	+ 1.50	2.83
FTSE 100 Acc	115.10	122.50	+ 1.60	2.83
German Gth	135.10	142.30	- 0.18	
-do- Accum	141.70	149.20	- 0.18	
Growth Port	614.30	653.60	+ 12.00	0.09
-do- Accum	632.60	673.00	- 12.30	0.09
High Interest Inc	99.49	103.10†	+ 0.20	7.68
High Interest Acc	100.50	104.20	+ 0.20	7.68
Hi Reserve Inc #	105.60	112.40†	+ 0.90	6.85
Hi Reserve Acc #	109.90	117.60	+ 1.00	6.85
Income	524.90	558.50	+ 5.90	3.65
-do- Accum	£14.58	£15.49	+ 16.00	3.65
Income Port	545.30	580.20	+ 5.20	4.55
-do- Accum	594.10	632.10	+ 5.60	4.55
Japan Growth	112.40	119.60	- 2.70	.

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	112.60	120.00	- 2.70	
Master Inc	64.16	68.26	+ 0.25	1.20
-do- Accum	72.89	77.55	+ 0.28	1.20
N American Gen	227.70	242.30	- 2.30	0.64
-do- Accum	263.30	280.20	- 2.70	0.64
NAm Sm Co Rec	175.10	186.30	- 0.80	
-do- Accum	178.70	190.20	- 0.80	
Pacific Basin	260.80	277.50	+ 0.10	0.32
-do- Accum	277.10	294.80	+ 0.20	0.32
Small Cos Rec	426.10	448.60	- 11.40	1.78
-do- Accum	580.20	610.80	- 15.70	1.78
UK Eq Gth	150.60	160.30	- 1.80	2.84
UK Eq Inc	121.70	129.50	+ 1.60	4.20
UK Growth	95.86	102.00	- 1.10	2.09
-do- Accum	118.10	125.70	- 1.50	2.09
Worldwide Gth	345.30	367.40†	- 1.90	
-do- Accum	510.20	542.80	- 2.80	
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
American	81.08	86.83	- 0.70	0.40
General	99.06	106.29†	+ 0.89	2.30
Income	68.86	73.98	+ 0.30	5.40
International	71.28	76.47	- 0.23	0.40
Japan	60.25	64.64	- 1.04	
Tst of Inv Trusts	71.72	76.95	+ 0.33	1.40
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	483.60	511.40	- 5.80	0.39
-do- Accum	603.70	638.30	- 7.30	0.39
Amer Recovery	530.60	561.10†	- 6.10	0.52
-do- Accum	611.30	646.50†	- 7.00	0.52
Amer Smlr Cos	149.90	158.50	- 2.10	
-do- Accum	153.20	161.90	- 2.20	.
Australasian	170.80	180.60	+ 1.90	2.43
-do- Accum	210.80	222.80	+ 2.30	2.43
Capital	899.60	951.30	- 0.80	2.95
-do- Accum	1043.40	1103.30	+ 0.90	2.95
Charifund	726.30	733.60†	+ 4.80	5.89
-do- Accum	3570.60	3606.40†	+ 23.90	5.89
Commodity	432.80	457.70	+ 3.10	0.38
-do- Accum	637.40	674.10	+ 4.60	0.38
Compound Gth	1030.50	1089.80	+ 3.20	2.95
-do- Accum	1108.70	1172.50	+ 3.50	2.95
Dividend	43.10	45.60†	+ 0.20	4.39
-do- Accum	187.80	198.60†	+ 1.00	4.39
Equity Income	337.20	356.60	+ 1.80	5.09
-do- Accum	447.50	473.30	+ 2.40	5.09
Euro & General	546.10	577.50	+ 2.00	1.38
-do- Accum	696.10	736.00	+ 2.50	1.38
Euro Dividend	77.00	81.40	- 0.60	3.77
-do- Accum	94.90	100.40	+ 0.80	3.77
Extra Yield	439.40	464.70	+ 2.50	4.84
-do- Accum	1423.10	1505.10	+ 8.00	4.84
Far Eastern	361.30	382.10	- 1.90	0.40
-do- Accum	481.80	509.70	- 2.40	0.40
Fund of Inv Tsts	665.40	703.70†	- 8.20	1.96
-do- Accum	1264.20	1337.00†	+ 15.60	1.96
General	65.90	69.70	+ 0.10	3.77
-do- Accum	187.90	199.00	+ 0.40	3.77
Gilt Income	62.75	62.83†	+ 0.13	6.80
-do- Accum	182.10	182.35†	+ 0.37	6.80
Gold	66.90	70.70	- 0.60	0.61
-do- Accum	79.30	83.80	- 0.80	0.61
High Income	30.80	32.60†	- 0.60	4.89
-do- Accum	128.70	136.50†	+ 0.30	4.89
Intl Growth	85.90	90.80	- 0.50	0.87
-do- Accum	151.00	159.70	- 0.90	0.87
International Inc	106.30	112.40	+ 0.50	3.98
-do- Accum	164.30	173.80	+ 0.80	3.98
Japan & Gen	43.10	45.60†	- 0.90	
-do- Accum	46.20	48.90†	- 1.00	
Japan Smlr Cos	147.60	156.10	- 3.20	
-do- Accum	148.60	157.20	- 3.20	
Managed Gwth	25.30	26.70	- 0.10	1.79
Managed Income	29.00	30.40†	+ 0.10	4.30
Midland	58.60	62.00	+ 0.40	3.72
-do- Accum	201.20	213.00	+ 1.20	3.72
Pension Ex	989.10	1013.60	- 12.30	4.38
Recovery	45.20	47.80	- 0.10	2.69
-do- Accum	75.30	79.70	- 0.10	2.69
Second General	72.30	76.50	- 0.10	3.67
-do- Accum	190.20	201.00	- 0.30	3.67
Smaller Cos	69.80	73.80	- 0.20	3.33
-do- Accum	140.80	149.00	- 0.40	3.33
Sterling Hi Int	25.96	26.06	+ 0.10	7.20
Treasury	25.11	25.16†	+ 0.03	6.33
Trustee	41.40	43.80	- 0.40	4.58
-do- Accum	173.30	183.30	- 1.70	4.58
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	88.72	94.38	- 0.46	1.37
Intl Bond	67.75	71.19†	- 0.24	5.59
Intl Equity Growth	80.88	85.95†	- 0.52	0.60
N Amer Growth	125.09	132.69	- 0.17	0.74
Special Sits Growth	24.15	25.69	+ 0.82	2.20
UK Growth	417.81	444.47	+ 1.04	2.71
-do- Accum	560.00	595.74	+ 1.39	2.71
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1432.40	1453.50†	+ 8.90	3.00
Income #	1047.60	1064.20	+ 6.30	4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	158.10	162.20		3.72
For Manulife see Canada Life				

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
01244 680 066				
M & S Inv Ptflo	167.90	176.80	. .	2.13
-do- Accum	195.40	205.70		2.13
UK Sel Ptflo	145.10	152.70†	+ 0.70	2.50
-do- Accum	172.50	181.60†	+ 0.90	2.50
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 384 842				
Managed Tst	74.43	79.18	+ 0.30	3.59
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4846				
Intl Income	78.52	83.35†	+ 0.46	4.14
European	92.65	98.35	- 0.12	1.16
Income #	79.66	84.57†	+ 1.11	4.23
Nth American	82.11	87.17	- 0.53	0.42
Far East	169.40	179.80	- 2.30	0.05
Japan	61.20	64.97	- 1.32	
Emgting Mkts	93.36	99.16	- 1.09	0.02
Intl Growth	121.60	129.10	- 0.70	0.57
UK Growth	106.40	112.90†	+ 0.40	1.63
UK Smlr Co	52.05	55.25†	- 0.11	1.34
Asian Opps Fd	37.20	39.79	- 0.27	0.45
Glob Gwth PEP	56.45	59.92	- 0.16	0.47
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	98.14	104.41	- 0.37	..
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Income	452.51	481.39	+ 4.88	3.89
Global Inc	75.70	80.53	+ 0.59	3.47
Brit Leaders	387.63	412.37	+ 5.84	1.78
Intl Leaders	218.72	232.68	- 0.84	1.34
PAM Mg Bal Gth	68.78	71.46	+ 0.01	0.73
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0171 280 2060				
American	244.90	259.80†	- 1.30	
-do- Accum	261.90	276.70†	- 1.50	
American Opps	109.80	117.10	- 2.90	
-do- Accum	111.20	118.60	- 2.80	
British Blue Chip	89.61	95.01	+ 1.40	2.53
-do- Accum	113.40	120.20	+ 1.80	2.53
Cash	100.80	100.80	+ 0.10	6.43
-do- Accum	143.10	143.10	+ 0.10	6.43
Emerging Mkts	106.50	114.50	- 1.60	0.12
-do- Accum	107.20	115.30	- 1.50	0.12
European Growth	267.60	284.40	- 1.90	0.16
-do- Accum	290.40	308.50	- 2.10	0.16
European Income	89.90	95.28	- 0.66	3.01
-do- Accum	125.00	132.30	- 0.90	3.01
General	561.40	598.90	+ 3.20	2.06
-do- Accum	1120.00	1190.00	+ 6.00	2.06
Global Bond	134.60	141.40	- 0.30	5.25
-do- Accum	169.60	178.10	- 0.40	5.22
Gold & General	215.30	231.50	- 2.80	0.39
-do- Accum	222.30	239.00	- 2.70	0.39
Govt Securities	94.32	97.26†	+ 0.65	6.03
-do- Accum	192.90	198.80†	+ 1.30	6.03
High Yield Bd	102.30	105.80†	+ 0.20	6.64
-do- Accum	103.60	107.20†	+ 0.20	6.64
Income	172.10	182.50†	+ 1.50	3.96
-do- Accum	277.00	293.80†	+ 2.40	3.96
Inc Portfolio #	106.80	113.10	+ 0.50	4.64
-do- Accum #	111.60	118.20	+ 0.50	4.64
Intl Opps	498.50	531.70†	- 2.70	0.17
-do- Accum	670.80	715.50†	- 3.60	0.17
Japan	176.10	186.50	- 2.00	.
-do- Accum	180.80	191.50	- 2.10	.
New Europe	197.60	210.80		0.95
-do- Accum	203.70	217.30	- 0.10	0.95
Pacific	115.00	122.70	- 0.80	0.83
-do- Accum	123.40	131.60	- 1.00	0.83
Recovery	350.10	373.40†	+ 4.80	0.69
-do- Accum	453.80	484.10†	+ 6.10	0.69
UK Smaller Cos	57.21	61.02	+ 0.88	0.84
-do- Accum	65.31	69.66	+ 0.88	0.84
Portfolio	89.17	94.59	+ 0.67	2.44
-do- Accum	107.40	113.90	+ 0.90	2.44
Managed Grth	108.50	113.50†	+ 0.40	1.67
Managed Inc	113.00	117.30†	+ 0.50	3.84
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD				
01707 662 233				
Eurogrowth Plus	126.35	134.42	- 0.69	0.18
Portfolio	74.01	78.73	+ 0.43	1.52
UK Income Inc	84.22	89.56	+ 0.20	4.86
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 125				
Balanced	65.22	68.29	- 0.03	2.82
-do- Accum	70.69	74.02	- 0.03	2.82
British Tst	98.37	103.00	+ 2.00	1.99
-do- Accum	115.40	120.80	+ 2.30	1.99
Extra High Inc	70.48	73.78	+ 0.51	6.41
-do- Accum	142.30	149.00	+ 1.00	6.41
FT-SE 100 Acc	63.00	65.96	+ 0.64	2.51
FT-SE 100 Dist	61.10	63.98	+ 0.62	2.51
Gilt & Fxd Int	56.84	59.15†	+ 0.41	6.56
-do- Accum	173.40	180.40†	+ 1.20	6.56
High Yield	229.60	240.40	+ 2.40	5.87
-do- Accum	606.30	634.80	+ 4.70	5.87
Income	304.60	319.00	+ 2.60	4.20
-do- Accum	685.00	717.20	+ 5.80	4.20
Money Market Inc	49.42	49.42	+ 0.04	5.64
-do- Accum	80.23	80.23	+ 0.07	5.64
Monthly Income	90.47	94.73	+ 0.87	4.84
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	119.80	127.40	+ 1.50	1.54
European Growth	116.20	123.20	- 0.10	0.02
Gilt & Fixed	95.72	101.50	+ 0.70	5.47
Income	93.32	99.28	- 0.68	2.57

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Japan Growth	52.63	55.79	- 0.18	
Managed	76.66	81.55	- 0.50	2.15
Money Market	90.90	96.35	- 0.11	4.17
North American	107.30	113.90	- 1.20	0.39
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	108.60	115.50	- 1.30	1.53
European Growth	109.20	115.80	- 0.10	0.01
Gilt & Fixed Int	90.72	96.22	+ 0.67	5.46
Income	91.53	97.37	- 0.67	2.64
Japan Growth	52.37	55.62	- 0.18	
Managed	73.27	77.95	- 0.48	2.13
Money Market	83.88	88.91	+ 0.10	4.12
North American	96.94	102.90	- 1.10	0.41
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	108.30	115.20	- 1.30	1.52
European Growth	106.60	113.00		
Gilt & Fixed Int	83.37	88.43	+ 0.60	5.59
Income	89.89	95.63	+ 0.64	2.67
Japan Growth	53.57	56.79	+ 0.18	
Managed	76.78	81.68	- 0.49	2.12
Money Market	77.92	82.62	- 0.07	4.21
North American	108.40	114.90	+ 1.20	0.36
MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
International (BCSS)	13.99	14.83	- 0.12	
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	434.10	460.30	- 6.20	
European Gth Inc	574.60	616.20†	- 17.40	
-do- Accum	581.00	622.90†	- 17.60	
Intl Gwth	219.60	233.50†	- 2.60	.
UK Equity Inc	206.20	219.40	+ 2.90	2.91
Do Accum	272.90	290.30	+ 3.80	2.91
UK Intl Trckr Inc	179.00	191.30	+ 1.70	2.62
-do- Accum	215.40	230.20	+ 2.10	2.62
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	254.40	269.70	- 1.43	1.01
Japan Tracker	78.08	82.70†	- 0.77	
Asian Trader	213.30	230.20	- 1.90	0.29
Managed Inc	172.00	183.50†	+ 0.10	2.11
Deposit Inc	99.84	99.84†	- 0.08	6.03
Europa	264.10	284.90†	- 2.20	
Genesis	180.60	195.70	+ 0.60	1.62
High Income	21.50	22.89	- 0.10	10.09
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 090 933				
Acumen	103.70	106.00	- 0.50	2.38
Acumen Inc	96.07	98.13	- 0.50	2.20
Acumen Reserve	92.46	93.85	+ 0.22	7.55
-do- Inc	75.78	76.54	+ 0.18	7.55
American Growth	62.27	64.06	- 0.43	
Cash Income	49.77	49.77†	+ 0.04	6.12
Equity Income #	99.65	102.10†	+ 1.10	4.74
European	75.38	76.87	- 1.29	0.21
Smaller Cos	84.12	88.24†	- 1.80	1.35
W'wide Eqty	71.13	72.19	- 1.32	0.22
Global Bond	46.78	47.33†	- 0.22	6.40
UK Growth	104.80	107.40	+ 1.30	2.06
Pacific Growth	112.40	116.60	- 0.40	0.79
Japan Growth	105.50	107.30	- 2.90	
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Avon Equity	137.68	146.47	+ 0.85	2.46
N&P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
0161 237 5322				
UK Growth	82.82	88.11	- 0.56	2.14
UK Income	116.03	123.44†	- 0.33	3.94
Higher Income	218.47	232.42†	- 1.67	5.23
Smaller Cos	90.20	95.96	- 0.35	1.89
International	106.46	113.26	+ 0.94	1.54
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
American Dist	121.80	129.60†	- 3.00	0.30
European Dist	130.00	138.30†		0.20
Far East Dist	190.90	203.10	- 2.20	
Global Care Dist	81.07	86.24†	- 0.29	0.67
Oseas Dist	1129.10	1201.20	- 9.60	0.01
-do- Accum	1465.50	1559.00	- 12.50	0.01
UK Dist	389.30	414.10†	+ 3.60	2.55
-do- Accum	779.80	829.60	+ 6.20	2.55
UK Extra Inc Dist	86.91	92.46	+ 0.12	3.54
Wwide Dist	118.40	123.80	- 0.90	0.30
Wwide Inc Dist	79.52	84.60	+ 0.13	2.29
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER UT MGRS				
Dlg: 01277 690 280 Admin Enq: 01277 690 398				
Europe Inc	69.44	73.28	- 0.11	1.09
Fund of Funds Inc	64.63	68.21	+ 0.14	2.20
North America Inc	63.42	66.93	- 1.21	
UK Equity Grth Inc	64.25	67.81†	+ 0.56	2.54
-do- Accum	68.23	72.01	+ 0.59	2.54
UK General Inc	63.06	66.55	+ 0.42	2.76
UK Gilt/Fix Int Inc	49.24	51.97	+ 0.31	6.98
UK Income Inc	61.91	65.34†	+ 0.56	3.44
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0500 550 000 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
American Tst	45.64	48.55	- 0.30	.
-do- Accum	46.00	48.94	- 0.29	
Bond	126.88	134.90	+ 0.24	5.59
Bridge Fund	92.98	98.91		2.16
Cash Income	50.19	50.19†	- 0.96	5.90
-do- Accum	68.89	68.89†	+ 0.06	5.90
Distributor	99.16	105.49†	+ 0.74	3.29
European	47.26	50.28	- 0.53	.
Foundation	101.60	108.09	+ 0.81	2.34
General	207.19	220.42	+ 0.05	1.59
Global	350.84	373.23	- 3.77	0.18
Growth	132.47	140.93	+ 0.49	2.58
Higher Income Inc	30.85	32.82	+ 0.20	4.48
-do- Accum	36.08	38.37	+ 0.24	4.48
Income	254.46	270.70†	+ 1.42	3.12
Intrepid	135.38	141.02†	+ 2.12	1.92
Japan	26.35	28.03	- 0.12	
Managed Tst Inc	52.90	56.57	+ 0.13	2.07
-do- Accum	56.39	60.31	+ 0.14	2.07
Oriental Inc	153.74	163.55	+ 0.67	0.22
-do- Accum	158.64	168.77	+ 0.70	0.22
Pers Int Gwth	34.00	36.17	- 0.24	0.40
Royal Scottish Assurance				
Cap Hse Global Inc	81.85	87.54	+ 0.02	1.57
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2555				
Managed	106.50	112.70	- 0.50	2.27
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
Master Trust	134.35	141.42	+ 0.40	1.27
UK Equity	154.71	162.85	+ 1.66	3.00
UK Equity Income	140.67	148.28†	+ 1.29	3.43
UK Smaller Cos	124.14	130.67	- 0.25	1.69
UK Equity Growth	145.86	153.54	+ 1.88	2.17
UK Index Trckg	156.33	164.56	+ 0.63	3.42
Intl Index Trckg	165.59	174.30	- 0.84	0.96
International	262.85	276.68	- 1.49	0.62
European	225.23	237.08	+ 1.08	0.22
Pan European	148.71	156.54†	- 0.07	1.30
Nth American	216.71	228.12†	- 1.35	0.13
N Amer Smlr Cos	229.22	241.28	- 1.97	
Japanese	94.52	99.49†	- 1.68	.
Pacific	239.12	251.70†	- 2.62	0.63
South East Asian	264.38	278.29	- 3.40	0.84
Intl Bond	144.83	152.45	+ 0.32	5.15
Gilt & Convertible	112.30	118.21	+ 0.91	5.85
Property	77.36	81.43†	+ 0.25	6.93
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
European Inc	252.80	271.20	- 4.90	0.42
-do- Accum	267.50	286.90	- 5.30	0.42
Japan Inc	108.80	116.20	+ 0.70	
Nth American Inc	120.60	129.40	- 1.70	0.31
Worldwide Inc	167.70	179.90	- 1.40	0.39
Hong Kong Inc	151.20	162.20	- 1.20	0.17
Swiss Equities Inc	85.85	91.60	+ 1.37	0.11
Wwide Bond Inc	87.51	77.41	- 0.03	4.92
Emging Asia Inc	207.10	225.50†	- 3.50	0.14
-do- Accum	207.90	226.40	- 3.40	0.14
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.28	50.28†	+ 0.04	6.41
Thailand Inc	163.20	177.50†	- 1.40	1.27
New Zealand Inc	95.16	102.10	- 0.30	1.83
Intl Mngd PEP Inc	66.58	71.49	+ 0.03	1.41
Latin Am Gwth Inc	55.42	60.22	- 1.18	0.31
UK All Sh Mln Inc	65.82	70.60	+ 0.60	2.44
Broker Unit Trusts				
Global Trustees	85.78	91.74	- 0.34	
Global Portfolio	76.00	80.94	- 1.27	
Global Opps	68.12	72.54	- 1.33	
Marsh Global Grth	66.75	70.79	+ 0.34	
AAM Global Equity	55.86	59.21	- 0.07	2.13
CAM Brit Gwth Inc	102.80	110.00	+ 0.40	
Temple Equity Inc	45.58	49.65	- 0.01	2.80
Hartley Growth	97.48	103.70	+ 2.30	
Intl Growth Inc	89.54	95.70	+ 0.77	1.02
IPS Portfolio Inc	89.42	95.64	+ 1.28	
Premier Ports Inc	70.32	75.21	- 0.01	1.74
Roxborgh Strat Gth	75.54	80.45	- 1.14	0.48
Slater Gwth	119.80	124.30	+ 0.60	
International Strat	80.57	86.17	- 0.39	
UPC Ind-Acc Grth	60.18	64.36	- 0.15	
Coverdale Topeat	52.46	56.66	- 0.17	
Prem Equity Inc	114.20	125.00	+ 1.50	
Lowes Intl Growth	51.85	54.59	- 0.21	
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	261.00	277.60†	+ 3.40	2.56
-do- Accum	564.00	599.90	+ 7.20	2.55
Growth	170.60	179.50	+ 1.90	2.81
Income	251.50	267.40	- 1.10	3.75
Intl Equity	276.60	294.20	- 1.80	0.72
-do- Accum	308.00	327.60	- 2.00	0.72
UK Income	70.81	75.32	+ 0.72	3.19
UK Intl 25	87.66	93.25	+ 0.81	2.02
New Europe	88.38	93.89	- 0.29	0.35
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	668.83	715.12	- 3.00	0.35
-do- Accum	721.25	717.92	- 3.02	0.35
Income	408.11	436.49	+ 3.96	3.82
Wwide Recovery	431.76	461.78	- 2.57	0.43
Amer Growth Inc	278.83	298.22	- 3.04	0.01
-do- Accum	278.83	298.22	- 3.04	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	265.52	283.98	- 0.73	0.13
Far East Gth Inc	292.02	313.18†	- 2.63	0.50
-do- Accum	294.15	314.80	- 2.64	0.50
Euro Gwth Inc	165.26	176.75†	- 3.69	0.10
-do- Accum	165.81	177.34	- 3.09	0.10
UK Growth Inc	108.36	113.78	+ 0.94	2.55
-do- Accum	111.98	119.69	+ 0.99	2.55
High Income Inc	108.78	116.35	+ 0.93	3.80
-do- Accum	220.48	235.19	- 3.56	0.01
Jap Gwth Inc	220.48	235.19	- 3.56	0.01
PEP Growth	134.63	143.99	- 0.76	0.77
Asian Sh Mkts Inc	126.15	134.92	- 2.07	0.44
-do- Accum	126.15	134.92	- 2.07	0.44
Amer Smlr Co Inc	175.00	187.81†	- 0.57	0.01
-do- Accum	175.60	187.81	- 0.57	0.01
Global Bond	58.34	61.58	+ 0.03	5.97
UK Smaller Cos Inc	95.57	102.22	+ 0.16	1.50
-do- Accum	100.56	107.56	+ 0.17	1.50
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0191 201 3827				
American	122.38	130.19†	- 0.07	...
European	80.74	85.89	- 0.68	..
Global	67.20	71.49†	+ 0.14	..
Pacific	60.96	64.85	+ 0.26	.
UK Inc & Grth	71.53	78.10	+ 0.71	2.18
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 01277 690 430				
Fund of Funds	180.85	191.39	+ 0.34	0.62
Emerg Mkts	44.39	46.97	- 1.27	1.11
High Income #	53.83	56.96†	+ 0.02	5.71
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	155.32	165.24	- 0.40	1.91
PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0171 280 3700 Dealing: 0800 282 443				
American Income	112.20	119.30	- 0.50	3.17
Conv & Gilt	114.70	122.00†	+ 3.00	6.00
European Income	79.70	84.78	+ 0.66	3.26
Extra Income	170.50	181.40†	+ 1.10	5.24
-do- Accum	214.70	228.40	+ 1.50	5.24
Far East	402.10	427.70	- 3.10	0.24
-do- Accum	410.50	436.70	- 3.10	0.24
Global Income	28.07	29.86	+ 0.13	5.11
High Income	126.20	134.20	- 0.50	4.26
-do- Accum	155.90	165.90	- 0.60	4.26
International	208.10	210.30	- 1.00	0.72
-do- Accum	213.40	227.00	- 1.00	0.72
Pref & Fxd Int	44.50	47.34	+ 0.16	7.18
Recovery	76.96	81.87	+ 0.54	2.57

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Special Sits	121.50	129.30†	+ 1.30	1.59
-do- Accum	133.80	142.30	+ 1.40	1.59
Technology	644.80	686.00	- 13.40	...
UK Blue Chip	78.35	83.35	+ 1.52	3.21
-do- Accum	89.41	95.12	+ 1.73	3.21
PROVIDENT MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 588 3963				
Equity Cap	224.20	238.50	- 0.50	1.51
European Gth	116.30	123.50	- 0.30	0.92
Income & Gth #	149.90	159.50	+ 0.50	3.21
Japan Gth	118.60	125.20	- 1.60	
Nth Amer Gth	195.10	207.60	- 2.60	0.08
Overseas Gth	114.70	122.00	- 0.20	0.27
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0181 478 3377 Client Enq: 0171 911 4490				
Managed Tst	42.06	43.58	+ 0.03	1.70
Cash Haven Inc	101.25	101.75†	+ 0.09	5.61
Cash Haven Acc	115.19	115.76†	+ 0.10	5.61
Dist Trust Inc	104.39	108.17	+ 0.31	5.98
Dist Trust Acc	112.30	116.37	+ 1.01	5.98
Global Growth	100.82	106.40	+ 0.98	1.39
Equity Inc	86.70	92.23†	+ 0.15	3.49
Equity	814.76	868.76	- 0.98	2.18
European	238.86	247.52†	+ 1.08	0.84
High Income	90.52	96.29†	+ 0.08	4.96
Intl Grth	208.58	221.89	- 0.96	0.08
Intl Sm Co	88.80	94.46	- 0.25	0.61
Japanese	223.14	231.23	- 2.44	.
Nth Amer	218.67	226.60†	- 1.69	1.09
Pacific Mkts	114.70	118.85	- 0.38	0.28
Premier Inc	49.75	51.78	- 0.31	6.46
Sm Cos	101.04	107.48	+ 0.21	1.42
Spec Sits	119.22	126.82	+ 1.27	2.55
UK Growth	137.37	146.13	+ 1.19	2.12
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	326.90	346.80	+ 4.80	3.16
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000				
FA America (Inc)	625.62	666.25	- 5.86	0.00
FA America (Acc)	731.66	778.01	- 6.86	0.60
FA UK Equity Inc	168.72	179.99†	+ 1.80	3.53
FA Japan	252.90	269.32	- 6.84	
FA Major UK Cos	105.07	111.72†	+ 1.13	2.24
FA Smlr UK Cos	329.69	358.33	- 0.79	1.25
FA European	360.06	382.90	- 1.16	0.54
FA Amer Smlr Cos	56.52	60.54	- 0.46	0.06
FA Asia	52.41	56.23	- 0.18	0.06
FA Jap Smlr Cos	43.11	46.13	- 0.62	
RAM Personal Pension				
UP Major Cos	108.65	115.41	+ 1.16	
UP Smlr Cos	96.35	101.47	- 0.22	
UP Income	107.78	113.44	+ 1.10	
America	126.06	132.69	- 1.16	
Japanese	55.90	58.84	- 1.49	
European	116.17	122.28	+ 0.38	
Gilt	97.94	103.09	+ 0.99	
Deposit	87.18	91.76	- 0.08	
Managed	109.60	115.36	+ 0.85	.
RAM FSAVC Scheme				
UP Major Cos	106.64	112.24	+ 1.11	
UK Smaller Cos	93.97	98.91	- 0.22	
UK Income	105.01	110.53	+ 1.08	
America	122.54	128.98	- 1.14	
Japanese	54.35	57.20	- 1.46	
European	113.03	118.97	+ 0.36	
Gilt	96.15	101.21	+ 0.82	
Deposit	83.28	87.66	+ 0.08	
Managed	103.14	108.56	+ 1.15	.
ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD				
Prices: 01733 282 828 Gen Enq: 01733 390 000				
United States	108.80	114.00	- 1.60	0.27
Pacific Basin	78.32	84.20	- 0.40	0.27
High Inc Dist	146.70	156.60	+ 1.50	4.35
Ryl Life Intl Cmy	63.04	66.80	- 0.23	4.01
Ryl Life Intl Gwth	74.67	79.75	- 0.83	0.13
Ryl Life Intl Spec	68.30	72.65	- 1.06	.
UK Emerging Cos	138.10	149.20	- 0.70	1.03
UK Index Trckg	182.90	194.30†	- 0.20	3.16
European	147.70	158.60†	- 0.10	
Managed	166.80	179.40	- 0.30	0.66
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 764 400				
American Growth	178.90	190.30	- 0.20	1.89
European Growth	121.40	128.70	- 0.60	2.55
Far East Growth	142.10	151.20	+ 1.00	2.00
Japan Growth	137.10	145.70	- 0.50	
Special Sits	228.20	242.70	- 0.50	1.22
UK Growth	88.61	94.26†	- 0.28	2.07
Triton General	269.50	286.80	- 0.10	1.03
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 6500				
Far East Inc	168.20	178.00	- 0.90	0.35
Gtr Euro Prog Inc	351.10	371.50	+ 0.70	0.23
-do- Accum	548.40	580.30	+ 1.10	0.23
Growth Inc	142.80	151.10	- 1.20	0.23
-do- Accum	146.40	154.90	- 1.20	0.23
International Inc	366.40	387.70	- 3.70	0.16
-do- Accum	505.10	534.50	- 5.10	0.16
Nth Am & Intl Inc	371.60	393.20	- 12.30	0.57
UK Gen Prog Inc	238.50	252.40	+ 0.50	1.14
-do- Accum	268.40	284.00	+ 0.60	1.14
UK High Inc Inc	141.10	149.30	+ 1.39	3.75
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 330 0572				
American Gwth	76.57	81.45†	- 1.52	
Asian Gwth	116.87	124.33	+ 0.89	0.75
European Gwth	78.17	83.15†	- 0.35	1.00
Global Bd	62.41	66.00	- 0.22	5.80
Global Eq	64.01	68.09†	- 0.97	0.50
Japan Sm Cos	57.72	61.40	- 1.53	
UK Gwth	76.29	81.15†	+ 0.56	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
01708 766 966				
Amer Inc & Gwth #	86.08	91.57	- 0.60	3.29
Amer Smlr Cos	139.50	148.40	- 2.30	.
Asian Smaller Cos	42.49	45.20	- 0.39	.
Capital Portfolio	140.10	149.00	+ 0.80	1.93
Cash	130.70	130.70	+ 0.10	6.11
China Dragon	58.18	62.98	+ 0.53	1.49
Commodity	133.20	141.70	- 1.40	
Eastern Discovery	103.60	110.20	- 0.10	
Emerging Mkts	35.96	38.26	- 0.45	0.04
Energy Inds	136.50	145.20	+ 2.40	0.15
European Growth	204.00	217.00†	+ 0.20	0.21
Euro Inc & Gwth #	85.45	90.90	+ 0.57	1.85
Euro Smlr Cos	59.25	63.03†	- 0.24	0.08
Extra Income #	55.42	57.19†	+ 0.32	5.47
Financial Secs	259.00	275.50†	+ 2.30	1.21
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc #	50.31	53.12	+ 0.15	8.53
Gold & Exploration	79.28	84.35	- 2.05	
High Return #	246.00	261.70	+ 1.80	3.88
High Yield #	246.70	262.40	+ 2.00	3.64
Income #	128.20	136.40	+ 1.00	4.12
Intl Bond	176.20	186.10	- 0.40	5.43
ITU	224.70	239.00	+ 0.50	0.81
Japan Growth	177.40	188.70	- 1.90	
Japan Smaller	175.90	187.10	- 1.40	
Korea	61.19	65.10	- 5.62	
Masterfund	59.82	63.64†	- 0.09	0.94
Scotbits	388.10	412.90	+ 0.60	0.89
Scotshares #	329.50	350.50†	+ 5.40	1.81
Scotyields #	263.50	280.30	+ 2.40	3.30
Select Intl	148.80	158.30	- 2.00	0.48
Smaller Cos Inc #	246.80	262.60	- 1.20	3.83
SE Asia	52.31	55.65	- 0.28	0.22
Special Situation	145.30	154.60	+ 1.10	1.78
UK Equity #	275.00	292.50	+ 2.10	2.52
UK Growth	74.03	78.75	+ 0.49	1.89
UK & O'seas	185.20	197.00	+ 1.10	1.21
UK Smlr Cos Gwth	53.16	56.55	- 0.15	1.53
US Growth	190.50	202.70	- 1.70	0.13
Unit Growth	150.80	160.40	- 0.50	0.38
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Clnt: 0800 526 535 Brkr: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	312.70	331.52†	- 4.30	0.98
-do- Accum	344.02	364.73†	- 4.76	0.98
European Gwth	83.46	88.55	+ 0.01	0.97
Euro Smlr Cos	89.50	95.24	- 0.21	0.48
Far Eastern Gth	100.30	106.98	- 2.22	..
-do- Accum	102.11	108.92	- 2.25	..
Gilt & Fixed Int #	53.84	56.76	+ 0.31	7.22
Global Bond #	54.48	58.20	- 0.15	6.90
-do- Accum #	61.27	65.32	- 0.17	6.90
Global Emer Mkts	51.42	54.84	- 0.85	.
-do- Accum	51.46	54.89	- 0.85	..
Income #	385.20	410.88	+ 3.68	5.05
-do- Accum #	1112.52	1113.36	+ 11.98	5.05
Japan Smlr Cos	448.74	476.52	- 4.81	
-do- Accum	447.84	477.47	- 4.83	
Japan Enterprise	70.29	74.97	- 2.65	
Pacific Gwth	141.98	151.42	- 0.29	0.52
-do- Accum	146.54	156.30	- 0.30	0.52
Portfolio	89.27	95.22	- 0.03	1.97
-do- Accum	97.61	104.11	- 0.03	1.97
Seoul	48.84	51.68	- 3.10	
-do- Accum	48.64	51.88	- 3.10	
Smaller Cos	249.71	266.35	+ 0.69	1.29
Tokyo	127.58	136.09	- 1.32	..
-do- Accum	128.88	137.46	- 1.34	
UK Enterprise	305.67	327.11	+ 4.70	2.10
-do- Accum	379.60	395.30	+ 5.68	2.10
UK Equity	273.04	291.24	+ 2.08	2.58
-do- Accum	537.73	573.57	+ 4.05	2.58
US Smlr Cos	207.02	220.82†	- 1.07	
-do- Accum	207.02	220.82†	- 1.07	
Institutional Funds				
European	266.81	277.06	+ 0.46	1.39
-do- Accum	298.49	309.96	+ 0.52	1.39
Euro Smlr Cos	30.40	31.65	- 0.25	1.48
-do- Accum	32.66	34.00	- 0.26	1.48
Global Equity Inc	86.01	89.59	- 1.04	1.12
Japan Smlr Cos	37.66	39.22	- 0.24	0.12
-do- Accum	37.98	39.55	- 0.25	0.12
Mngd Balanced	211.59	220.40†	+ 0.99	2.87
-do- Accum	243.34	253.48†	+ 1.15	2.87
Overseas Equity	211.87	220.69	- 1.77	1.19
-do- Accum	220.11	229.28	- 1.83	1.19
Oseas Smlr Cos	134.49	139.99	+ 0.07	0.96
-do- Accum	140.88	146.75	+ 0.07	0.96
Pacific	262.82	273.77	+ 0.03	1.39
-do- Accum	290.41	302.51	+ 0.03	1.39
Recovery	£20.75	£21.61	+ 10.85	3.06
-do- Accum	£22.29	£23.22	+ 11.65	3.06
UK Index	172.20	179.37	+ 1.91	3.36
-do- Accum	216.64	225.66	+ 2.40	3.36
UK Small Cos	122.51	127.61	+ 0.26	2.78
-do- Accum	132.93	138.46	+ 0.28	2.78
US Smlr Cos	59.45	61.92	- 0.06	0.54
-do- Accum	60.81	63.34	- 0.06	0.54
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 204 2200				
Equity Income	57.30	60.60	+ 0.46	2.73
Equity Trust	70.74	74.81	+ 0.57	2.98
Equity Strategy	82.02	86.74	+ 0.04	2.73
European Opps	98.32	103.97	+ 0.27	0.30
UK Smaller Cos	72.17	76.32	- 0.37	1.08
Maximum Inc	99.63	102.32	+ 0.03	6.67
Japanese	81.13	85.80	- 1.22	.
Asia Pacific	126.20	133.46	- 1.47	3.08
American	124.71	131.88	- 0.84	0.53
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
Cash	32.14	32.14	+ 0.03	5.178
UK General Inc	58.47	62.28	+ 0.89	2.60
-do- Accum	76.84	81.86	+ 1.01	2.60
Intl Income	285.70	304.80†	- 0.20	1.56
-do- Accum	498.30	532.60†	- 0.40	1.56
European	90.08	95.39	- 0.07	1.67
Japan	70.28	74.49†	- 0.90	0.77
American	86.92	92.06	- 0.70	2.40
Far East	88.27	94.15	- 0.27	2.40
Ethical Inc	33.83	36.18	+ 0.03	3.25
UK Blue Chip Inc	38.24	40.79	+ 0.58	4.07
High Inc Inc	38.90	41.60†	+ 0.33	3.52
UK Global Inc	44.99	48.03	+ 0.14	1.73
Wwide Tact	77.70	83.06	- 0.40	2.08
Europe 2000 Tact	59.46	63.13	- 0.51	2.61
Technology	138.62	148.86†	- 2.87	0.97
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	436.30	464.60	+ 3.20	2.83
American	326.50	346.30	- 4.20	0.52
Pacific	412.10	440.70	- 1.10	0.38
European	598.30	641.00	+ 0.20	1.29
Worldwide	98.27	105.10	- 0.20	0.49
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	301.70	321.08†	+ 2.20	2.30
-do- Accum	390.50	415.50†	+ 3.00	2.30
UK Sh Co Eq Inc	229.90	244.60†	+ 0.30	1.57
-do- Accum	281.20	299.20†	+ 0.40	1.57
Select Opprtly Inc	78.81	84.09	+ 0.59	2.30
Income Plus Inc	79.50	84.58	+ 0.38	4.36
European Inc	381.50	405.90	- 1.50	1.42
-do- Accum	434.50	462.30	- 1.70	1.42
Far Eastern Inc	178.50	189.90	- 1.00	1.02
-do- Accum	205.20	218.30	- 1.20	1.02
Japanese Inc	63.91	67.99	- 0.85	
Nth American Inc	293.40	312.20	- 5.70	0.21
-do- Accum	324.40	345.20	- 6.30	0.21

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Growth Inc	222.00	236.20†	- 2.50	0.36
Wwide Venture Inc	87.93	93.55	- 0.52	0.75
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 668 3724				
Equity Inc	411.00	438.30	+ 1.60	2.48
-do- Accum	617.30	658.40	+ 2.50	2.46
UK High Inc	199.50	212.80	+ 1.40	3.39
-do- Accum	299.00	318.90	+ 2.10	3.39
Europe Inc	421.40	449.50	- 9.90	0.30
Nth Amer Inc	280.50	299.10	- 4.10	
Global Inc	238.80	254.70	- 5.20	0.22
Global Acc	257.30	274.40	- 5.50	0.22
UK Spec Sits Inc	113.70	121.30	- 0.40	2.56
South East Asia	226.30	241.40	- 3.20	0.43
Cash Trust Inc	100.10	100.10	+ 0.10	5.99
UK Smlr Cos Inc	111.40	118.80	- 0.60	2.06
-do- Accum	115.30	122.90	- 0.70	2.06
Intl Bond Inc	100.40	106.80	- 0.20	5.24
SEMPER EADEM FUND MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Sector Recovery	153.90	161.70	+ 1.40	4.12
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	145.10	152.70	+ 0.40	0.94
Nth American	131.60	138.50	- 1.30	0.17
Intl Bond & Conv	128.90	135.70†	+ 0.40	6.57
Pooled Pension (F)	218.40	232.70†	+ 2.00	2.09
Smaller Cos	96.24	101.30†	+ 1.49	1.01
UK General	150.50	158.40†	+ 1.10	2.47
Far Eastern	99.66	104.90		.
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 6226				
Amer Gth Fund ‡	121.58		- 2.25	.
Aztec ‡	62.52		- 1.21	
European ‡	144.99		- 0.91	0.29
Global Bond ‡	97.57		- 0.30	8.09
Investment Trust ‡	105.19		- 0.41	2.05
Preferred Income ‡	101.93		+ 0.20	5.90
Samurai ‡	55.28		- 0.95	
Sterling Reserve ‡	101.05		+ 0.13	6.00
UK Growth ‡	104.60		+ 0.09	2.40
Tai Pan ‡	99.94		- 1.63	
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	102.48		- 0.22	2.92
UK Equity Inc ‡	108.13		+ 1.26	5.58
Glob Gwth PEP	69.85	74.30	- 0.78	1.31
Pref Inc PEP #	102.50	108.30	+ 0.40	5.99
Inv Trust PEP	52.51	55.66	+ 0.42	
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	399.80	423.00	- 6.00	
Canadian	72.10	76.29	- 0.29	0.47
Capital	139.50	149.30	- 0.80	1.61
Cash	101.15	101.15	+ 0.09	6.14
European	145.70	154.10†	- 1.50	0.79
Far Eastern	162.70	172.10	+ 0.50	
Growth	151.60	160.40	- 0.50	1.32
Income	135.50	143.40	- 1.00	4.90
Magnum	152.20	160.80	+ 0.70	1.65
Smlr Secs	458.40	485.00	- 0.50	0.58
Thoroughbred	174.00	186.50	+ 0.90	1.39
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01202 298 422				
Crefio Prmnce	56.06	59.96	+ 0.04	7.00
Ethical	70.87	75.20	+ 0.48	0.50
European Growth	78.59	83.60	- 0.18	1.60
Income	57.77	62.11†	+ 0.23	4.30
Intl Growth	107.50	114.60	- 0.50	1.60
Managed	90.15	96.16	+ 0.45	2.30
UK Growth	71.72	77.11	+ 0.26	1.50
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 393 777				
Standard Life Fund Mngrs Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	44.92	45.15	+ 0.20	1.65
Global Advtg Acc	46.46	48.71	+ 0.22	1.65
Income Advtg Inc	34.87	35.05†	+ 0.18	3.49
Income Advtg Acc	39.72	39.92	+ 0.20	3.49
UK Equity Gth Acc	81.18	86.06	- 0.02	1.36
Premier Inc Inc	49.63	52.24†	+ 0.17	7.18
Premier Inc Acc	50.61	53.27	+ 0.11	7.18
Managed Acc	58.43	61.94	+ 0.23	1.40
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	40.13	42.54	+ 0.33	3.90
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	51.41	54.50	+ 0.41	3.90
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	72.08	76.59	+ 0.46	2.10
UK Equity Gen Inc	52.52	55.81	+ 0.34	2.10
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	32.45	34.32	+ 0.11	6.05
Oseas Eq Co Acc	355.20	385.50	- 1.30	1.67
Nth American Acc	55.48	58.95	- 0.21	
Pacific Basin	44.85	47.45	+ 0.03	0.79
European Acc	56.72	60.27	+ 0.02	1.11
Japan Acc	28.55	30.34	- 0.20	
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7000				
Global A (NZS)	4.274	4.532	+ 0.01	1.78
US Eqts (US$)	3.033	3.217	- 0.01	0.99
Far East Eqts (yen)	256.00	271.90	- 0.20	
FT Europe	143.20	152.10	- 0.10	1.28
FT N Amer (US$)	2.325	2.464	+ 0.00	0.44
FT Japan (yen)	226.10	240.10	- 3.80	
FT Asia Exjap (US$)	2.653	2.818	+ 0.01	0.87
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	466.20	494.80†	- 1.50	
British #	1165.90	1233.50	- 0.40	3.16
Emging Mkts	133.80	143.00	+ 0.80	0.45
European	577.30	614.90	- 1.90	0.52
Japan	142.40	151.30	- 1.10	
New Pacific	401.90	428.00	+ 1.50	1.53
-do- Accum	428.40	456.20	+ 1.60	1.53
Inv Trust Acc	282.50	299.50	+ 2.50	0.82
Mngd Equity	193.00	204.20	+ 1.70	1.64
Mngd Cash	96.27	96.27	+ 0.07	6.22
SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 389				
Equity	963.80	1031.00	+ 10.00	2.11
North America	165.70	176.30	- 1.80	
Far East	156.50	167.40	- 0.90	
Wwide Bond	61.82	65.60	- 0.06	5.01
European	113.60	121.50	- 1.50	1.39
Equity Income #	100.40	107.40†	+ 0.80	5.60
Portfolio	98.46	105.30		1.89
UK Leading Cos	70.80	75.52	+ 0.75	3.11
Broker Trusts				
Intnl Equity	71.73	76.72	- 0.07	
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD				
0800 525 725				
Antares UT	22.85	24.31†	- 0.19	1.01
European	44.31	47.14†	+ 0.09	0.84
High Income	34.45	36.65	+ 0.23	4.17
Japan	37.35	39.74†	- 0.55	0.01
Managed Assets	136.88	146.40	+ 0.44	2.57
North American	39.43	41.95†	- 0.36	0.32
Smlr Co's Inc	32.12	34.18	- 0.18	2.11
Smlr Co's Acc	34.75	36.97†	- 0.16	2.11
UK Growth Inc	60.82	64.71	+ 0.59	2.78
UK Growth Acc	66.82	71.09†	+ 0.64	2.78
UK Income	43.33	46.35†	+ 0.40	3.44
Worldwide Grth	38.72	41.42†	- 0.28	0.62
Confederation				
Canadian Exmpt	65.22	67.24	- 0.99	1.99
European Exmpt	91.04	93.86	- 0.41	1.92
Pacific Exmpt	82.61	84.55†	- 0.80	1.10
US Exmpt	92.23	95.09	- 1.00	1.44
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD				
Admin & Enq: 0171 606 4044 Dlg: 0171 606 6010				
Discretionary	54.26	57.72	- 0.12	
Cap Protectn Inc	43.35	46.12	- 0.03	2.79
UK Income Inc	56.11	59.69	+ 0.37	3.22
Mngd Extra Inc Inc #	34.61	36.79	+ 0.01	5.12
Mngd High Yld Inc	84.84	90.26†	+ 0.61	4.43
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	80.68	85.83†	+ 0.61	3.31
UK Smaller Cos	37.30	39.68	+ 0.09	1.70
Pacific Grth Port	50.03	53.22	- 0.13	0.69
TSB UNIT TRUSTS				
01264 346 794				
American	264.75	280.16	- 6.49	.
-do- Accum	291.61	308.58	- 7.15	.
Brit Growth	110.27	118.08	+ 1.09	1.94
-do- Accum	135.14	143.07	+ 1.34	1.94
European	115.61	122.55	- 0.34	
-do- Accum	123.26	130.43	- 0.37	.
Extra Income	203.00	214.81	+ 2.34	3.77
-do- Accum	357.73	378.55	+ 4.13	3.77
Smaller Cos	79.83	84.48	+ 0.25	0.97
-do- Accum	90.74	96.02	+ 0.28	0.97
General	326.99	346.02	+ 3.83	2.28
-do- Accum	685.07	724.95	+ 8.04	2.28
Premier Income	52.14	54.31	+ 0.14	6.63
-do- Accum	124.01	129.18	+ 0.33	6.53
Income	350.78	371.19†	+ 4.22	3.47
-do- Accum	796.69	843.06†	+ 9.59	3.47
Pacific	420.30	444.76	- 4.77	
-do- Accum	441.63	467.33	- 5.01	
International	600.88	635.85	- 5.95	
-do- Accum	791.66	837.75	- 7.84	.
Nat Resources	177.69	188.03	- 1.23	
Slctd Opps	122.76	129.90	+ 0.89	1.58
-do- Accum	158.76	168.00	+ 1.16	1.58
Environmental Inv	70.66	74.77	+ 0.78	1.42
Selector	68.86	72.86†	+ 0.49	1.51
-do- Accum	79.14	83.74†	+ 0.56	1.51
High Income	68.19	72.15	+ 0.68	4.22
-do- Accum	88.97	94.08	+ 0.89	4.22
Intl Income	64.01	67.73	+ 0.19	5.09
-do- Accum	81.97	86.74	+ 0.25	5.09
Selector Income	65.27	69.07†	+ 0.98	4.12
-do- Accum	79.81	84.45†	+ 1.19	4.12
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
0181 667 1018				
British	372.18	391.77	+ 4.64	2.72
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	223.21	238.73	- 1.20	2.26
Glob Balncd Inc	186.17	199.12	- 1.71	3.62
Value Tst Inc	129.75	138.77†	- 1.62	2.13
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0171 246 3000 Dealing: 0171 246 3001				
Dresdner Eur Bd	45.52	47.55	+ 0.38	6.70
European Growth	304.53	318.87	- 0.11	0.40
Exempt	607.17	634.09	+ 5.19	2.80
Global Em Mkts	78.67	82.37	- 2.02	0.40
Japan Fd	83.20	87.12	- 4.30	..
Little Dragons	93.38	97.77	+ 0.13	..
Nth Amer Gwth	281.48	294.74	- 1.79	0.50
Oriental Income #	46.26	48.43	- 0.74	2.30
Preference	130.33	136.47	+ 1.07	8.80
Tiger	284.78	298.19	- 3.71	..
UK Blue Chip	72.53	75.94	+ 0.90	1.70
UK Growth	591.55	619.42	+ 5.99	2.10
UK High Yield #	109.13	114.27	+ 1.34	4.40
UK Mid-Cap	279.93	289.93	+ 0.16	2.20
UK Smlr Cos	117.01	122.52	+ 1.03	1.00
UK Smlr Cos Div #	88.23	92.38	+ 0.65	5.30
UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT LTD				
01277 690 336				
UK Equity Income	107.21	114.05	+ 1.11	3.42
UK Equity Growth	95.28	101.36	+ 0.98	2.73
European	74.09	78.81	. .	1.48
Nth American	83.59	88.93†	- 0.47	0.15
Far Eastern	75.73	80.56†		0.96
Money	69.43	69.43	+ 0.06	5.26
Fixed Interest	78.03	83.01	+ 0.40	5.87
Index Linked Gilt	70.66	75.17	+ 0.01	1.26
VIRGIN DIRECT PFS LTD				
0345 958585				
Income Trust	105.63	105.63	+ 0.63	6.76
UK Index Tracking @	120.14	120.14	+ 0.44	2.86
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0131 225 1551				
Australasian Gold	25.59	26.92	- 0.23	...
Pacific Basin	44.57	46.91	- 0.19	..
Global Bond (US$)	0.9197	0.9573	+ 0.00	..
Penny Share	43.56	45.85	- 0.07	.
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 623 2444				
Challenger	101.00	103.80†	+ 0.60	2.90
Short Dtd Gilt	121.90	123.40	+ 0.50	...
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.7886	0.7787	+ 0.00	.
Gilt Income	53.34	55.51	+ 0.30	6.70
Gilt Growth	78.01	81.18	+ 0.40	.
Sterling Bond	50.33	52.20†	+ 0.29	7.00
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	52.74	58.04	+ 0.21	1.58
UK Stockmarket	89.82	95.25	- 0.33	2.40

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data; # Periodic Charge deducted from capital; @ Exit Charge.

Cook move adds touch of spice at Bradford

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE unexpected move this week by Paul Cook from Leeds to Bradford Bulls — the side the England wing has kicked to defeat twice this season — has brought an extra relish to the rugby league derby between the two Yorkshire sides at Odsal tomorrow.

Cook's place-kicking was flawless in the Stones Championship win by Leeds in September, and was again the difference at Headingley in the Regal Trophy last month, when Matthew Elliott, the assistant coach at Bradford, cursed the teenager's unflappable ability "never to miss".

Until Tuesday, Cook, 19, knew nothing of his transfer. The announcement on Wednesday was greeted with amazement, as Leeds cast off a player widely acknowledged as being among their best home-grown talents in a money-and-exchange deal worth £150,000 for Carl Hall, 26, a journeyman centre, with a number of points to prove back at Bradford tomorrow in a Leeds shirt.

For Cook, a remarkable year has taken him from the Headingley boot-room to the first team, and from the Great Britain Academy side to two World Cup appearances for England. Uprooting to Bradford was not part of the script and, when Dean Bell spoke recently of changes after a losing streak, few realised the Leeds coach had in mind his leading points-scorer.

Leeds felt that Cook had developed as far as he could, a strange diagnosis of a player at the start of a career, when his replacement is halfway through his. Hall, a physical and combative centre, is an answer to the likely departure of Craig Innes, to Australia, but not, as Hugh McGahan, the Leeds football manager, admitted, the definitive one.

Hall's immediate introduction allows Innes to switch to the troublesome stand-off half berth, alongside Graham Holroyd. The scrum half assumes the goal-kicking duties in opposition to Cook, whose tally is 74 goals this campaign and who resolves the kicking problem for Bradford left by Deryck Fox's departure to Featherstone.

On a day when Wigan, at an injury-ravaged and newly-titled Oldham Bears, should move eight points clear in the formality of their march to a seventh successive championship title, greater interest rests in Bradford's preparations for the Super Legue next March.

The recruitment of Brian Smith, a doyen among Australian coaches, underlines the seriousness of the Bradford intent. In sweeping changes to the club's image and personnel, the side's average age has been reduced from thirty-something to 23, helped yesterday by Smith's fourteenth signing in as many weeks. Davide Longo, 19, from Dewsbury, has figured with Cook in the Academy side.

In the transition season before the Super League, Bradford are determined to rebuild and experiment. Sonny Nickle, Paul Loughlin and Bernard Dwyer were an excellent three-for-one deal plus £250,000, in Paul Newlove's move to St Helens. Next month, Graeme Bradley and Jeremy Donougher, two Australians, join the stampede to Odsal for the start of the Challenge Cup.

At a club lambasted in the past for a lack of foresight, Peter Deakin, the marketing executive, said: "Everything is being geared towards Super League. The atmosphere is being transformed off the field and now on it. The dinosaurs have gone. A formidable challenge to Wigan can be expected."

London Broncos are unbeaten at The Valley, their new home, but a resurgent Sheffield will provide a stern test. Halifax, however, are suffering injury problems for the visit by Workington, who prop up the bottom of the table.

No case for football to enjoy special treatment

Rob Hughes argues that yesterday's Luxembourg ruling offers opportunity as well as a threat

Bosman and his lawyer show their delight at the successful end to their battle against the transfer system

If there was profit in panic, or prizes for self-pity, football would be an even more lucrative business than some clubs make it today.

Surely there was only one interpretation of last September's legal judgment, which pre-empted yesterday's verdict from Luxembourg, that the transfer system and restrictions on foreigners in European Union (EU) club teams was illegal. It was that football can no longer enjoy the duplicitous benefits of living outside the contractual agreements of the Treaty of Rome, while clinging to the system's social benefits.

Yet those three months were wasted. Uefa did nothing more than orchestrate a letter, a plea from 49 countries (only 15 of which happen to belong to the EU) asking politicians to ignore the law and to class football as a cause for special needs, a separate entity to the work ethics and practices agreed by the countries in which they work.

How ludicrous. If football really was a pure sport, and not such a ruthless business, Jean-Marc Bosman could not have been treated as feudally as he was in Belgium. Had there been just one friendly organisation — the so-called international players union (Fifpro) springs to mind — on his side, he might never have gone the whole five-year legal course to Luxembourg.

Yet what are the clubs bleating about? This is not the end of transfer fees, only of the illegal practice of holding a player to ransom once he is out of contract. In every argument concerning this case, remember those words: *out of contract*.

Of course there will be fall-out, clubs may well go to the wall. Those will be the clubs whose administration is inept, who believe there should be some protectionist measure offering them a lifeline to live beyond their capabilities.

But, in truth, one must repeat that in England, since 1963, it has been an illegal restraint of trade for clubs to prevent a player out of contract from pursuing employment elsewhere. In France, for almost a quarter of a century, freedom of contract as envisaged by the new ruling, has existed; no clubs have gone out of business, most are clever enough to manage both their players and their contractual situations in a manner to benefit themselves.

Instead of apoplectic cries, why not view this as an opportunity? Led by the FA, by Uefa on a wider scale, clubs must develop a more patient, more prescient management structure. If the small, enfeebled English clubs whose names are resonant with tradition can still find local talent, then they must learn to balance the budget so that they offer those youths a contract lengthy enough to inspire a modicum of loyalty, and of course give the clubs time to sell the players, legitimately within their contract, if they have judged their potential correctly.

This awareness, this judicious management, would shake up the system in Britain and abroad. Think of the acts of self-destruction that have occurred twice within a year at Leicester City. When Mark McGhee did last week as Brian Little did last year, by quitting the club, he took his coaching staff with him. So, any young players who had been lured to the club by those coaches, those judges of their potential, were left high and dry, wondering where loyalty from the club begins.

It is for club chairmen, under the auspices of the FA, the Premier League and the Football League, to manage the business properly. It is for Uefa to try to persuade those European nations outside of the EU to cooperate with the sensible legislation that Rome demands.

The removal of a restriction on foreigners is a double-edged affair for British clubs. Manchester United and Rangers complained ceaselessly that they were unfairly punished because their Scottish, Irish and Welsh players were counted as foreigners and their teams ruined.

"The whole verdict will create a mess," Lennart Johansson, the Uefa president, said yesterday. "For sure there will be imbalance between countries inside and outside the Union."

Again the words "management" and "persuasion" must apply. Uefa holds the television purse and can use that as leverage to ask all those who dip into the profit pool to recognise that some of their members are at an apparent disadvantage in holding quality players.

Yesterday, too, there was wild talk of this being a charter for greed, manipulated by players and agents. It is news that such a charter would be anything new, our supposedly elite performers have been playing the market, demanding disloyalty bonuses whenever they chose to move, abusing the game and its public.

It is rare that I concur with the utterances of Eric "Monster, Monster" Hall, agent to the likes of Dennis Wise, friend to those in high places.

Yesterday, he put his finger on the nub of the matter. "It is total rubbish to say small clubs will all go to the wall," he said. "They will also have to get into the real world, back their judgment more and give younger players longer contracts."

> 'What are the clubs bleating about? This is not the end of transfer fees'

Hall's dealings with Wimbledon have often made news, and Wimbledon's owner, Sam Hammam, put this whole "mess" in perspective back in September.

"Wimbledon have known about Bosman for four years", Hammam said, "so we took care of contracts.

"The senior players are on long-term contracts, average players on average contracts, and players we can do without are on very short-term contracts."

The word for that, always assuming that Hammam's coaching staff are credible judges, is management. How ironic that a club existing on the smallest scraps of income from sources other than the transfer market should feel better placed today to resist the European Union way of conducting business.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
* denotes all-ticket match
Pools coupon numbers in brackets

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Arsenal v Chelsea
(2) Aston Villa v Coventry
(3) Blackburn v Middlesbrough
(4) Manchester City v Nottm Forest P
(5) Newcastle v Everton
(6) Queens Park Rangers v Bolton
(7) Sheffield Wednesday v Leeds
(8) West Ham v Southampton
(9) Wimbledon v Tottenham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	17	12	3	2	36	15	39
Man Utd	17	10	5	2	35	17	35
Arsenal	17	8	6	3	22	11	30
Middlesbrough	17	8	6	3	19	11	30
Tottenham	17	8	6	3	23	17	30
Aston Villa	17	8	5	4	21	13	29
Liverpool	17	8	4	5	29	15	28
Nottm Forest	16	6	9	1	26	23	27
Leeds	16	7	4	5	21	18	25
Chelsea	17	6	6	5	16	18	24
Everton	17	6	5	6	22	19	23
Blackburn	17	6	3	8	27	24	21
West Ham	17	5	5	7	17	23	20
Sheff Wed	17	4	6	7	20	25	18
Southampton	17	4	5	8	16	26	17
Man City	17	4	3	10	9	26	15
Wimbledon	17	3	5	9	23	37	14
QPR	17	3	3	11	12	25	12
Coventry	17	2	6	9	22	36	12
Bolton	17	2	3	12	15	32	9

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

(10) Barnsley v Charlton
(11) Grimsby v Southend
(12) Huddersfield v West Bromwich
(13) Ipswich v Sheffield Utd
(14) Millwall v Derby
(—) Oldham v Birmingham
(15) Portsmouth v Luton
(16) Reading v Sunderland
(—) Stoke v Crystal Palace
(17) Watford v Tranmere
(—) Wolverhampton v Port Vale

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	20	10	7	3	28	15	37
Derby	21	9	7	5	34	27	34
Norwich	21	9	7	5	32	23	34
Birmingham	21	9	7	5	32	25	34
Stoke	21	9	7	5	31	24	34
Grimsby	21	9	7	5	26	23	34
Millwall	22	9	7	6	24	27	34
Leicester	21	9	6	6	34	30	33
Charlton	22	8	9	5	27	22	33
Huddersfield	21	9	5	7	28	26	32
Tranmere	19	8	6	5	32	21	30
Southend	21	8	6	7	24	26	30
Ipswich	21	7	7	7	36	32	28
Barnsley	21	7	7	7	27	38	28
Oldham	21	6	9	6	30	26	27
West Brom	21	7	3	11	24	31	24
Reading	21	5	8	8	26	29	23
Crystal Palace	20	5	8	7	22	26	23
Portsmouth	21	5	7	9	30	36	22
Wolves	21	5	7	9	27	32	22
Port Vale	21	4	8	9	24	30	20
Watford	21	4	8	9	24	30	20
Sheff Utd	21	5	3	13	27	39	18
Luton	21	4	6	11	17	30	18

Second division

(18) Blackpool v Bradford
(19) Bournemouth v Stockport
(20) Bristol Rovers v Oxford Utd
(21) Carlisle v Walsall
(22) Chesterfield v Brentford
(23) Notts County v Crewe
(24) Peterborough v Rotherham
(25) Shrewsbury v Brighton
(26) Swansea v Burnley
(27) Swindon v Wrexham
(28) Wycombe v Bristol City
(29) York v Hull

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	19	12	5	2	35	14	41
Notts County	19	11	5	3	32	16	38
Crewe	19	11	4	4	39	22	37
Blackpool	19	9	5	5	27	20	32
Wrexham	19	8	7	4	31	22	31
Burnley	20	8	7	5	31	25	31
Chesterfield	19	9	4	6	29	21	31
Shrewsbury	19	9	2	8	28	25	29
Wycombe	19	7	8	4	27	21	29
Oxford Utd	19	7	7	5	27	20	28
Bradford	19	8	4	7	27	29	28
Stockport	19	6	8	5	22	18	26
Bournemouth	19	7	4	8	19	24	25
Walsall	19	6	6	7	22	17	24
Bristol Rovers	19	6	5	8	19	29	23
Peterborough	19	5	7	7	26	30	22
Carlisle	20	5	6	9	26	32	21
York	19	6	3	10	23	31	21
Rotherham	20	5	6	9	23	34	21
Bristol City	19	5	6	8	19	28	21
Swansea	20	4	8	8	20	31	20
Brentford	19	5	4	10	14	24	19
Brighton	19	4	3	12	19	32	15
Hull	19	1	8	10	15	32	11

Third division

(30) Bury v Gillingham
(31) * Chester v Preston
(32) Colchester v Scunthorpe
(33) Darlington v Barnet
(34) Doncaster v Leyton Orient
(35) Exeter v Rochdale
(36) Fulham v Northampton
(37) Hartlepool v Cambridge Utd
(38) Lincoln v Plymouth
(39) Mansfield v Cardiff
(40) Torquay v Scarborough
(41) Wigan v Hereford

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chester	18	11	4	3	37	20	37
Preston	19	9	9	1	42	19	36
Gillingham	18	10	6	2	25	6	36
Plymouth	19	9	5	5	34	22	32
Rochdale	19	9	5	5	33	20	32
Darlington	19	7	8	4	21	18	29
Doncaster	20	8	5	7	21	28	29
Colchester	19	7	7	5	29	24	28
Bury	18	7	7	5	23	25	28
Cambridge Utd	19	7	5	7	31	32	26
Wigan	19	6	7	6	24	24	25
Exeter	20	5	9	6	21	25	24
Scunthorpe	19	5	8	6	27	23	23
Leyton Orient	19	6	5	8	21	28	23
Cardiff	19	6	5	8	20	19	23
Mansfield	19	4	9	6	29	37	21
Hereford	19	4	9	6	22	24	21
Northampton	19	5	6	8	19	20	21
Barnet	19	4	9	6	19	24	21
Fulham	19	3	11	5	23	23	20
Scarborough	19	4	7	8	22	30	19
Hartlepool	19	4	7	8	16	30	19
Lincoln	19	4	5	10	18	35	17
Torquay	19	2	6	11	18	41	12

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Altrincham v Telford
(—) Bromsgrove v Welling
(—) Dover v Bath
(—) Halifax v Runcorn
(—) Hednesford v Kidderminster
(—) Kettering v Farnborough
(—) Macclesfield v Gateshead
(—) Morecambe v Stalybridge
(—) Northwich v Stevenage
(—) Southport v Dagenham and Red

Spalding Cup
Second round

(—) Slough v Woking

Smirnoff Irish League
Premier division

(42) Ards v Glentoran
(43) Crusaders v Bangor
(44) Glenavon v Cliftonville
(45) Linfield v Portadown

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(46) Aberdeen v Hearts
(47) Celtic v Falkirk
(48) Hibernian v Raith
(49) Kilmarnock v Partick

First division

(50) Dundee v St Johnstone
(51) Dunfermline v Airdrie
(52) Greenock Morton v Dundee Utd
(53) Hamilton v Dumbarton
(54) St Mirren v Clydebank

Second division

(55) Berwick v Montrose
(56) Clyde v East Fife
(—) Forfar v Stranraer
(57) Queen of South v Stirling
(—) Stenhousemuir v Ayr

Third division

(—) Brechin v Livingston
(58) Cowdenbeath v Caley Thistle
(—) Queen's Park v Arbroath
(—) Ross County v Alloa

Tennents Scottish Cup
First round

(—) Albion v Deveronvale
(—) Glasgow U v Spartans (2 15)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Witton; Boston v Marine, Chorley v Winsford, Colwyn Bay v Buxton, Droylsden v Leek, Frickley v Barrow, Guiseley v Bamber Bridge, Hyde v Bishop Auckland, Knowsley v Emley, Matlock v Blyth Spartans; Spennymoor v Gainsborough. First division: Alfreton v Whitley Bay; Ashton United v Worksop; Atherton LR v Workington, Congleton v Farsley Celtic; Eastwood Town v Lancaster; Harrogate Town v Gretna; Leigh v Curzon Ashton, Lincoln United v Fleetwood, Netherfield v Warrington

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Third round proper: Thamesmead v Brentwood; Tilbury v Aveley, Slade Green v Diss. Third round replay: Furness v Raunds T

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Baldock v Ilkeston; Burton v Merthyr, Chelmsford v Sudbury Tn; Cheltenham v Worcester; Gravesend and Northfit v Stafford; Halesowen v Dorchester; Newport AFC v Gresley, Rushden and Diamonds v Hastings, Salisbury v VS Rugby. Midland division: Bedworth v Hinckley Town, Buckingham Town v Redditch, Grantham v Leicester United, King's Lynn v Dudley Town, Moor Green v Corby; Nuneaton v Solihull; Paget R v Bury Town; RC Warwick v Evesham, Rothwell v Bilston; Stourbridge v Sutton Coldfield; Tamworth v Bridgnorth. Southern division: Bashley v Yate; Cinderford v Newport IoW; Clevedon v Margate, Erith and Belvedere v Forest Green, Fleet T v Ashford; Poole v Weston-super-Mare, Sittingbourne v Havant, Tonbridge Angels v Fareham, Trowbridge v Fisher 93, Weymouth v Braintree, Witney v Waterlooville

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford v Yeading, Chertsey v Molesey, Dulwich v Harrow, Enfield v Yeovil; Hayes v Carshalton, Hendon v Kingstonian, Purfleet v Aylesbury (1 45); St Albans v Bromley, Sutton United v Grays, Walton and Hersham v Hitchin; Worthing v Boreham Wood. First division: Abingdon Town v Barking; Aldershot Town v Wokingham, Barton Rovers v Wembley, Billericay v Oxford City; Bognor Regis v Marlow, Chesham v Maidenhead United, Leyton Pennant v Basingstoke, Ruislip Manor v Berkhamsted Staines v Uxbridge, Thame v Tooting and Mitcham, Whyteleafe v Heybridge Swifts. Second division: Banstead v Wivenhoe, Canvey Island v Dorking, Edgware v Bedford T, Egham v Collier Row H Hempstead v Saffron Walden, Hungerford v Croydon; Leatherhead v Cheshunt; Ware v Bracknell; Witham v Chalfont St Peter. Third division: Camberley v Cove, Clapton v Hertford; Harlow v Wealdstone; Hornchurch v Flackwell Heath, Kingsbury v Wingate and Finchley; Leighton v Horsham, Northwood v Epsom and Ewell, Southall v East Thurrock; Windsor and Eton v Harefield

LEAGUE OF WALES: Afan Lido v Flint Town, Caersws v Rhyl, Connah's Quay v Conwy (2.30); Ebbw Vale v Caernarfon, Holywell v Briton Ferry; Llanelli v Bangor City

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers v Burnham Ramblers, Eton Manor v Concord, Maldon v Ford United; Romford v Southend Manor. Sawbridgeworth v Hullbridge Sports, Stansted v Great Wakering.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell v Paulton; Barnstaple v Bristol Manor Farm; Brislington v Bridport; Calne v Tiverton, Crediton v Chippenham, Elmore v Taunton; Odd Down v Bideford; Torrington v Frome; Westbury v Mangotsfield

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Corinthian-Casuals; Brook House v Woolwich, Hanwell v Waltham Abbey, St Margaretsbury v Hillingdon; Tottenham Omada v Cockfosters; Willesden (Hawkeye) v Brimsdown. League Cup: Second round, second leg: Tufnell Park v Croydon

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash v Merstham, Bedfont v Chipstead, Cobham v DCA Basingstoke; Cranleigh v Farnham; Eton Wick v Westfield, Hartley Wintney v Ashford, Horley v Godalming and Guildford, Netherne v Feltham, Viking Sports v Walton Casuals.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brache Sparta v Letchworth, Buckingham Athletic v Royston, Harpenden v Biggleswade, London Colney v Potters Bar, Langford v Arlesey Town; Shillington v Hoddesdon; Totternhoe v Hatfield.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Lowestoft v Haverhill; March v Harwich and Parkeston; Newmarket v Halstead; Soham v Hadleigh U, Stowmarket v Great Yarmouth; Sudbury Res v Felixstowe; Sudbury v Fakenham, Watton v Clacton, Wisbech v Woodbridge, Wroxham v Tiptree

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington v Downton, BAT v Bournemouth, Bemerton Heath v Aerostructures; Christchurch v Gosport; Cowes Sports v Brockenhurst; East Cowes v Portsmouth; Eastleigh v Swanage and Herston; Petersfield v Totton, Ryde Sports v Wimborne, Whitchurch v Andover.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Ringmer; Burgess Hill v Pagham, Eastbourne Town v Portfield; Hailsham v Oakwood, Horsham YMCA v Peacehaven and Telscombe, Southwick v Hassocks, Stamco v Whitehawk, Three Bridges v Crowborough, Wick v Langney Sports. John O'Hara League Cup: Third round: East Preston v Shoreham; Mile Oak v Midhurst and Eastbourne.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham v Deal, Corinthian v Herne Bay, Faversham v Beckenham, Folkestone Invicta v Canterbury, Ramsgate v Hythe; Tunbridge Wells v Dartford. First division cup: Second round replay: Greenwich v Crockenhill.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Burnham v Highworth; Lambourn Sports v Cirencester, North Leigh v Almondsbury. Shortwood v Fairford

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill T v Ettingshall HL, Darlaston v Malvern T, Gornal A v Walsall Wood; Lichfield C v Lye Town, Pelsall V v Hill Top R; Stafford T v Wednesfield; Tividale v Ludlow T, Westfields v Cradley Town, Wolverhampton C v Bloxwich S.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Mirrlees Blackstone, Cogenhoe v Wootton; Eynesbury v Northampton Spencer. Long Buckby v Desborough; Newport Pagnell v Bourne, Raunds v Holbeach, Stamford v Wellingborough, S and L Corby v St Neots, Stotfold v Spalding.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Barwell v Rushall O; Blakenhall v Sandwell, Hinckley Athletic v Boldmere St M; Kynpersley V v Boldmere S; Oldbury U v Armitage, Pershore T v W Mid Police; Shepshed D v Stratford T, Stapenhill v Rocester. Industrial Rewinds League Cup: Second round replay: Willenhall v Halesowen H

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Denaby v Goole; Glasshoughton Welfare v Arnold; Hatfield Main v Belper Town, Hucknall v Brigg; Liversedge v Armthorpe Welfare, North Ferriby v Ashfield; Ossett Town v Hallam, Pickering v Maltby MW; Sheffield v Ossett Albion, Thackley v Stocksbridge PS.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers v Kidsgrove, Burscough v Glossop North End; Eastwood H v Chadderton, Holker Old Boys v Bootle; Mossley v Maine Road; Nantwich v Darwen, Rossendale v Prescot; St Helens v Penrith; Salford v Clitheroe; Skelmersdale v Flixton; Trafford v Newcastle Town.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Charlton Ath v Portsmouth, Chelsea v Millwall, Fulham v Leyton Orient; Gillingham v Norwich, QPR v Arsenal, Southend v Ipswich, Tottenham Hotspur v West Ham, Watford v Cambridge Utd

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Southampton v Arsenal (at Marchwood)

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Bradfieldians v Haileyburians: Carthusians v Eastbournians, Chigwellians v Wykehamists; Cholmeleians v Reptonians; Foresters v Witleians, Haberdashers v Brentwoods; Lancing v Wellingburians. Premier division: Etonians v Aldenhamians. First division: Harrovians v Salopians

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning v O Aloysians, Clapham v O Ignatians; O Danes v O Isleworthians. Senior first division: Chertsey v O Manorians, O Salvatorians v O Kingsburians, O Wilsonians v O Tenisonians R

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Carshalton v Winchmore Hill, Civil Service v O Actonians; Crouch End Vampires v Kew Association, Nat West Bank v West Whickham, O Esthameians v South Bank. Second division: Lloyds Bank v O Bromleians, O Latymerians v O Parmiterians. Third division: Brentham v Southgate Olympic, Merton v O Salesians; O Westminster Citizens v Ibis

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Coventry Sphinx v Highgate, Handrahan Timbers v Coleshill; Northfield v Bloxwich; Shirley v Alvechurch Villa, Upton v Meir KA, Wellesbourne v Knowle. Challenge Urn: First round: Alvechurch Villa Res v Park. Challenge Urn: Second round: Richmond Swifts Res v Swan Sports. President's Cup: Second round: Holly Lane v Barlestone St Giles, Monica Star v Hams Hall. Challenge Vase: Second round: Bromsgrove v Continental Star. Carlsberg Cup: Third round: Kings Heath v Thimblemill Rec

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham v Peterlee; Consett v West Auckland, Durham v Shildon, Eppleton CW v Bedlington Terriers, Murton v Guisborough, RTM Newcastle v Chester-le-Street; Seaham Red Star v Dunston Federation, Tow Law v Ferryhill, Whickham v Stockton; Whitby v Crook.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Galway v Sligo (7.0), UCD v Derry (7 30).

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Albanian v Nottsborough; Old Grammarians v Witan, Southgate County v Parkfield; Ulysses v Hale End. Senior two: City of London v Hadley, Honourable Artillery Co v Ealing Association; Mill Hill Village v Old Woodhouseians, Wandsworth v Corinthian-Casuals.

SCHOOLS MATCHES (kick-off 10 30 unless stated). English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Fourth round: Bedford v Derby (11 0). South East Sussex v Islington (11.0), Swindon v East Berks (11 0). FA Premier League under-19 Trophy: Durham v South Yorkshire (11 0), Merseyside v Lancashire. Under-16 Trophy: Durham v South Yorkshire (11 0); Inner London v Hertfordshire. Suffolk v Norfolk. Oxford United Cup: Vale of White Horse v Banbury (10 0). English Girls Shield: Bexley v Woking. Southern Counties League: Aldershot v Reading, Oxford v South West Avon; Southampton v Bristol. London Pear Trophy: Croydon v Blackheath. London Rangers Cup: South London v Hackney. Kent Fletcher Trophy: Bromley v North Kent. Essex Birmingham Trophy: Basildon v Barking. Meyes League: Havant v Isle of Wight, Portsmouth v Gosport. Southern Counties Cup: Bexley v Gravesham, Hackney v Redbridge. Northern Merit: Leeds v Blackburn. Inter-Association: Luton v St Albans, Chester v North Shropshire, Huddersfield v South Notts. Trafford v Sefton, Gravesham v Havering. Welsh Mitre Shield: Wrexham v St Helens. Newham: Essex sevens championship (9.30)

HOCKEY

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier league: Chichester v Winchester. Hampshire/Surrey: London University v Solent HC. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: City of Oxford v Amersham. Kent/Sussex: Old Beccehamians v Horsham; Tunbridge Wells v Crawley

SCOTTISH INDOOR LEAGUE: Pool A (Bells SC, Perth, 12.0).

EAST SUPER INDOOR LEAGUE (Aldenham School, 12 15).

MIDLAND INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS: (Perdiswell, Worcester 9.30).

NORTH INDOOR LEAGUE: (Peterlee, 10 30).

CLUB MATCHES: Ashford (Middx) v B Stortford, Bowdon v Norton, Brooklands v Chester; Canterbury v Tunbridge Wells (12 0). Chichester v Bognor, Crawley v Lewes: IES v Ipswich, Khalsa v Peterboro. Leicester W v Sheffield; Maidenhead v Richings Pk, Newport v Westbury Banks, O Southendians v Colchester (3 0), Petersfield v Wokingham, Robinsons v Bridgend; St Neots v Bedford, W Herts v Oxford Hawks, Woking v Basingstoke

WELSH WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Haverfordwest v Cardiff Ath; Llanfair v Pontypridd, Newport v Penarth, Newtown v Swansea.

WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Anchorians v Bexleyheath; Bedford v Hemel H (1.0), Bournemouth v Havant. Chelmsford v Woking (2 45). Crimson R v Tamworth, Dulwich v Tulse Hill (1 30), Guildford v E Grinstead (1 30), Lansdown v Leominster, Paviors v Belper, Peterbro v Cambs C (10 0), Pevenil v Hope Valley (1.0). Redbridge v Welwyn GC, Southampton v Farnboro; Stone v Blackburn. Wimbledon v St Albans; Winnington Pk v Poynton, Wokingham v Chichester. York v Adel

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardiff v Milton Keynes (6 15); Durham v Sheffield (6 30). Slough v Fife (6.30). First division: Dumfries v Solihull (7 30); Guildford v Billingham (6 0). Murrayfield v Peterborough (7 0). Paisley v Chelmsford (7.0). Telford v Bracknell (7 30)

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Save & Prosper international match

England v Western Samoa
(at Twickenham)

CIS county championship
North

Northumberland v Cumbria
(at Newcastle, 2.0)
Yorkshire v Durham
(at Keighley, 2.15)

CIS under-21 county championship
North

Northumberland v Cumbria
(at Newcastle, 12.0)

Sun Alliance Colts county championship final

East Midlands v Hertfordshire
(at Twickenham, 12.15)

Irish inter-provincial championship

Munster v Leinster
(at Musgrave Park)
Ulster v Exiles
(at Belfast)

Swalec Cup
Fourth round

Aberavon v Caerphilly
Abercrave v Blackwood
Abertillery v Hendy
Blaina v Abercynon
Builth Wells v Fleur-de-Lys
Cardiff v Oakdale
Cardiff Inst v Maesteg Celtic
Cardigan v Neath
Carmarthen Quins v Bridgend
Cefn Cribbwr v Whitland
Garndiffaith v Newbridge
Gilfach Goch v Cross Keys
Heol-y-Cyw v Cowbridge
Llanegennech v Abergavenny
Llanharan v Pontypridd
Maesteg v Bonymaen
Mountain Ash v Ystradgynlais
Newcastle Emlyn v Merthyr
Newport v Tumble
Newport Saracens v Tonmawr
Penarth v Ebbw Vale
Penygraig v Glynneath
Resolven v Llanelli
Rhymney v Nelson
Rumney v Pontypool
South Wales Police v Old Illtydians
Swansea v Tenby Utd
Talywain v Dunvant
Treorchy v Kidwelly
Vardre v Glamorgan Wndrs
Ynysddu v Old Penarthians
Ystrad Rhondda v Llandovery

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Third division: Narberth v Tondu

Tennents Premiership
First division

Heriot's FP v Stirling County (2.0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melrose	14	9	1	4	326	199	19
Watsonians	14	8	1	5	393	270	17
Stirling County	13	8	1	4	286	201	17
Boroughmuir	14	7	2	5	327	301	16
Hawick	14	7	0	7	243	288	14
Heriots FP	12	5	1	6	284	326	11
Edinburgh Ac	14	4	1	9	243	282	9
Gala	13	2	1	10	179	394	5

Club matches

Bedford v Barking (3.0)
Broughton Park v Wigan
Cheltenham v Gordon League
Harlequins v Royal Navy (11.0)
Harrogate v Leicester (2 15)
Havant v Blackheath
Leeds v Hull Ionians (2.15)
Lichfield v Syston (2.15)
Liverpool St Helens v Fylde
London Irish v Camberley (3.0)
Northampton v West Hartlepool (3.0)
Nuneaton v Barkers Butts
Orrell v Otley (2 0)
Plymouth v Berry Hill
Preston Grasshoppers v
Huddersfield (12 30)
Reading v Basingstoke (12 0)
Richmond v Moseley (12 0)
Rosslyn Park v Lydney (12.30)
Sandal v Macclesfield (2.15)
Saracens v London Scottish (2 15)
Wakefield v Sale
Walsall v High Wycombe (2 15)
Wasps v Newcastle (3 0)
Waterloo v Morley (2.15)
Wharfedale v West Pk Bramhope
Winnington Park v Ruthin
Worcester v Newbury

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Second round

Eastmoor v Leigh Miners Welfare
Lock Lane v Beverley (2.0)
Oldham St Annes v Thatto Heath (2.0)
Saddleworth v Heworth
Skirlaugh v Mayfield (2.0)
Thornhill v Hemel Hempstead (2.0)
West Hull v Blackpool (2.0)
Wigan St Patrick's v West Bowling
Woolston v Egremont

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby v Chester (8.0). Leicester v London (7.30); Hemel v Leopards (7.30); Thames Valley v Birmingham (8.0). 7UP Trophy: Semi-final, first leg: Worthing v Sheffield (8.0). National League: Men: First division: Coventry v Brixton: Oldham and Rochdale v Nottingham; Plymouth v Mid-Sussex; Solent v Ware. Women: Men: First division: Barking and Dagenham v Spelthorne; Northampton v Rhondda: Thames Valley v Plymouth.

BOWLS: Denny Cup: Fifth round: Acle v Falcon: Blackpool Borough v Grantham, British Cellophane v Bodmin, Cambridge Chesterton v Kingsthorpe; Cambridge Park v Cyphers; City of Ely v Avon Valley, Cumbria v Thornaby; Desborough v Cotswold; Dorchester v Teignbridge; Mansfield v Crystal Palace, North Walsham v Tye Green; Old Mill Leisure v Boston; Preston v East Dorset, Sevenoaks v Dolphin; Sunderland v C and Sw Durham, West Berks v Westlecott.

BOXING: International Boxing Federation flyweight championship (vacant): Robbie Regan (Wales) v Ferid Ben Jeddou (Tun): Commonwealth light-middleweight championship: Kevin Kelly (Aus, holder) v Chris Pyatt (Leicester) (Institute for Sport, Cardiff)

CYCLING: Chesterfield Spire (10 miles, Ranby, 12.0).

EQUESTRIANISM: Show jumping championships (Olympia).

SWIMMING: Uncle Ben's Winter Challenge (Ponds Forge, Sheffield).

VOLLEYBALL: National League: Men: First division: Manchester Utd Salford v Reebok Liverpool City (4.30); Newcastle (Stalts) v KLEA Leeds (6.30); Wessex v Warwick Riga (5.45). Whitefield v Solent (7.0), Polonia Ealing v Team Mizuno Malory Lewisham (7 0); Sheffield v Tooting Aquila (5.30).

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TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

Liverpool v Manchester Utd (4.0)

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

Leicester v Norwich

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Dundalk v Shelbourne (6.15). Shamrock v St Patrick's Ath (2.15)

UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Fourth round: Canary Racers v Barry.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Notts County v Kidderminster Harriers. Southern division: Brighton and Hove v Oxford Utd. League Cup: Second round: Ilkeston v Croydon; Millwall Lionesses v Berkhamsted

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP: Third round: Leyton Orient v Town and County, Arsenal v Garswood/St Helens. Doncaster Belles v Langford; Three Bridges v Wimbledon; Wembley v Villa Aztecs. Tranmere v Wolverhampton.

RUGBY UNION

CIS county championship
Midlands semi-final

Warwickshire v Staffordshire
(at Rugby, 3 0)

CIS under-21 county championship
North

Lancashire v Cheshire
(at Fylde, 2 15)
Yorkshire v Durham
(at Wharfedale, 2.15)

South West

Oxfordshire v Buckinghamshire
(at Banbury, 2 0)

Tennents inter-district championship

Edinburgh District v South of Scotland
(at Meggetland, 2 0)
North and Midlands v Scottish Exiles
(at Rubislaw, Aberdeen, 1 30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Stones Championship

Bradford v Leeds
Halifax v Workington
London Broncos v Sheffield
(at Charlton Athletic)
Oldham v Wigan

First division

Featherstone v Batley (3.30)
Salford v Rochdale
Wakefield v Hull (3 30)
Whitehaven v Keighley (3 30)
Widnes v Huddersfield

Second division

Bramley v Highfield
Doncaster v Chorley (2.0)
Hull KR v Swinton (3 15)
Hunslet v Carlisle (3.30)
York v Barrow (3.15)

HOCKEY

EAST SUPER INDOOR LEAGUE (Aldenham School, 9 30)

NORTH INDOOR LEAGUE (Peterlee, 10 30)

MIDLAND INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS (Perdiswell, Worcester, 10 0).

WEST INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (Larkhill, Amesbury, 10 0)

WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Brooklands v Peelers, Colwyn Bay v Whitchurch (2.0). Dereham v Norwich City; Tenbury v Leominster

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardiff v Humberside (6.15). Milton Keynes v Fife (6 0), Newcastle v Nottingham (6 30) First division: Blackburn v Chelmsford (6.0); Dumfries v Paisley (5.30), Guildford v Bracknell (5.15), Manchester v Peterborough (6.0); Medway v Swindon (5 15), Murrayfield v Telford (6 30). Solihull v Billingham (7 0).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester v Doncaster (5 0); Birmingham v Manchester (6 0), Leopards v Worthing (5 0) National League: Men: First division: Crystal Palace v Bury. Women: Men: First division: Nottingham v London, Sheffield v Ipswich; Tyne and Wear v Birmingham.

CYCLING: Manchester and District (25 miles, Goostrey, 10 0)

EQUESTRIANISM: Show jumping championships (Olympia)

LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society League: Premier division: Cheadle v Poynton, Boardman and Eccles v Mellor. Cheadle Hulme v Stockport

SWIMMING: Uncle Ben's Winter Challenge (Ponds Forge, Sheffield)

Holdsworth cutting a dash with elite of football and fashion

Wimbledon's latest model attracts admiring glances

Russell Kempson on the striking ambition of a player pitched into a hectic double life in pursuit of his professional goals

IN THE accepted manner and style of a successful FA Carling Premiership footballer, Dean Holdsworth leads a pleasant existence. He is married, to Samantha, has two young sons, Bradley and Jordan, and lives in four-bedroomed, detached splendour in Woodford Green, Essex. Though his Porsche 911 is now but a memory, the limited edition BMW Z3 — as driven by Pierce Brosnan in *Goldeneye*, the latest James Bond movie — is on order, to go with the Saab convertible and Shogun. Waiting for it, on delivery day in June, is the N10 GOL number plate.

"When I saw the car, I had to have it," Holdsworth, the Wimbledon striker, their No 10, said. "You have to enjoy things. You can't take them with you, can you?" It will cost him "a nice few bob", even though he rejected the ejector-seat accessory, but it fits snugly into the Holdsworth persona. Slick and sleek, with more than a hint of Cockney twang from his roots in Walthamstow; confident and articulate, with a laddish charm that would give 007 a run for his money.

It serves him well, from the centre stages of Old Trafford and Anfield to the catwalk of *The Clothes Show* in Birmingham. He has modelled part-time for 2½ years and takes it as seriously as he would a half-chance from ten yards. "I wear suits and all sorts of smart gear," he said. "No G-strings or leather, I don't do anything like that, but I love clothes. I spend a fortune on them.

"The modelling is good fun, good publicity and good money, but I do it properly and professionally. If you take it light-heartedly, you're not going to get asked back, are you? I treat it the same as I do everything." So smoothly, apparently, that there is talk of him strutting his stuff amid the glitterati of the Paris shows next year.

He feels equally at ease with the media, as a regular guest, interviewee or analyst, and bears little resemblance to his television namesake, who is fondly remembered by devotees of *Coronation Street* as a symbol of bumbling buffoonery as opposed to streetwise savvy. Dean, unlike Reg, has his life in order.

One thing grates, though. He is happy again, his fourth year at Selhurst Park having produced ten goals in 16 matches, and has shaken off the unrest of last season. "I wanted the team to do well," he said. "I wanted to see us win things and I got frustrated. I jumped in, I was a bit selfish. I was thinking of me, me, me the whole time instead of the club. I can see that now."

Holdsworth: a model of catwalk composure

Yet all his optimism for the future — of Wimbledon continuing to bloody the noses of the rich and famous, as they could do against Tottenham Hotspur this afternoon — is tempered by personal ambition, the nagging hunger for a crack at the big time, with a big club in front of big audiences. The recent speculation of a £4 million move to Chelsea, which subsequently proved groundless, fuelled that desire.

Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, and Sam Hammam, the owner, know, too, that the club's sell-to-survive policy will soon call on Holdsworth to bale them out. "I like it here, genuinely, and the team spirit is tremendous, even though we haven't won for a while," Holdsworth, 27, said. "I've spoken to Joe and he is realistic. He's told me that, if the money is right and the time is right, I will go. He is honest and that's all you can ask for."

Watching England draw 1-1 with Portugal on Tuesday increased the pangs. He has had a tiny taste, scoring a goal in the 4-2 win by England B against Northern Ireland at Hillsborough last year, and wants more. "I'm as ambitious as ever and I don't want to be the most talked-about striker outside the England team. I want to be up there with them, I want to be part of it."

As befits the Crazy Gang club, his relationship with Hammam, an often volatile, emotional character, is unorthodox. "Sam's great," Holdsworth said.

"He knows what I can do as a player but likes posing questions for me as a person. He's always testing me, trying me out. He's got a great attitude; he doesn't go out to create wars but will say, 'If you're in one, make sure you win it'. I like that."

Hammam and Holdsworth challenge each other frequently. "He's never beaten me at anything," Holdsworth said. "I don't think he even knows which end of a snooker cue to use." Hammam's penances include riding around a restaurant at The Belfry, the Ryder Cup golf venue, on a children's tricycle. When Holdsworth reached an agreed 15-goal target, Hammam had to plant a kiss on his exposed backside.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

On the training ground with Wimbledon, Holdsworth points to a glittering future

Holdsworth's relationship with his identical twin brother, David, the Watford central defender, can prove similarly bizarre. "We're so much the same and a lot of strange things have happened over the years." Dean, the younger by 40 minutes, said. "If he buys a CD, I'll have bought it the day before." They play against each other, with David marking Dean, for the first time when Watford take on Wimbledon in the FA Cup third round on January 6.

With such paranormal forces at work at Vicarage Road, the sibling rivalry promises much intrigue. How can Dean get past David if David knows where Dean is going to go? If Dean knows that David knows where he is going to go, Dean can go the other side; but David will know that, too. A perplexing assignment for Dean, one of his toughest; sounds more like a case for Bond, James Bond.

Olympian who gets his kicks out of football

ROB HUGHES

Weekend View

Daley Thompson, in his day the world's most complete athlete, is a stride away from fulfilling an ambition that has burned inside him since boyhood. He wants to be a footballer, a real professional, picked on merit for an English League match.

As he drives his Mercedes Benz up from London to Mansfield, his pulse will quicken at the thought that one of Mansfield Town's forwards might turn an ankle. For Thompson is about to be a substitute for the Endsleigh Insurance League third division side against Cardiff City this afternoon. If Thompson doesn't actually start the game, but comes on to score, as he did for Mansfield reserves against Preston North End last Tuesday, he will still not have achieved the ultimate aim of starting and finishing a full match.

Andy King, the Mansfield manager, doubts that Thompson ever will. For he will be 38 next birthday, and even the physique which once carried him fearlessly through the disciplines of the decathlon cannot withstand the ravages of time. But King does not know his player if he throws down challenges that doubt Thompson's drive.

The football thing has bugged Thompson throughout. At 16, a rebellious boy, he was deflected from dreams of a footballing career when coaches discovered his all-round adaptability, his innate speed and his willingness to work at whatever skill they could teach him. Once, three weeks before defending his Olympic title, he played football for a celebrity team. The risk, I suggested, was ludicrous?

"No, mate," Thompson responded. "I don't get injuries, and, if I did, I wouldn't show them ... can't have the other competitors suspecting I'm only human."

King, while acknowledging the media interest — the last reserve gate was 500 rather than the usual 80 — insists: "I wouldn't be doing this if it was only a gimmick. Daley and I take each other seriously. He still has the attributes of pace and strength, and, if he were to come on and sprint from the halfway line, I don't think anyone at this level would catch him.

"He's not the finished article by any means. I can't see him getting a long-term contract. At the moment, I wouldn't start a game with him, but he could come on for a quarter of an hour and be just what we need."

Thompson admits: "I'm nowhere near as quick as I was, but maybe I won't need to be." He will follow his instincts. He has, I remember, a fair shot, reasonable awareness, and a hell of an ego.

King suggests there is something more, that opponents might be in awe of him, which could provide more space for others in the team. Also there is a spirit that he transmits in the dressing-room, displaying a longing and a dedication that has surprised everyone at the club.

Tomorrow, Thompson will be in Germany for a promotional event. The next day, he is due to park his Mercedes at Mansfield once more, before stepping aboard a rather ancient minibus, which will take the reserves to Middlesbrough.

Mark Lawrenson, who fulfilled all the footballing dreams that Thompson harbours, has commented this season that English professionals are becoming athletes who play football. But, should Thompson meet Peter Withe, who worked his way from apprentice electrician through eleven clubs to becoming the England centre forward, he would see that there is a price to pay.

Withe, at the age of 44, has just undergone a hip replacement operation.

THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL v CHELSEA

Calf injuries rob the game of a double Dutch treat, Bergkamp and Gullit. Bergkamp is simply resting but Gullit has now missed five matches. What was it the cynics were saying, at the start of the season, about his fragile state of health and recovery powers? Still, at least Mattie and Kenny are jolly good friends again, with Chelsea on a high after their 1-0 win over Newcastle. The hugs and back-slapping brought tears to one's eyes. A single win in nine visits to Highbury does not bode well, though. More tears today.

LAST SEASON: Arsenal 3 Chelsea 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-0, 3-1, 3-1, —, 0-1, 4-1, 3-2, 2-1, 1-0, 3-1.

How they line up

ARSENAL: D Seaman, L Dixon, S Bould, A Adams, N Winterburn, M Keown, J Jensen, D Platt, P Merson, I Wright, J Hartson. **Substitutes:** to be announced.

CHELSEA (from): D Kharine, D Petrescu, D Lee, M Duberry, A Myers, T Phelan, E Newton, D Wise, J Spencer, M Hughes, P Furlong, K Hitchcock, C Burley, G Hall, S Clarke, G Peacock.

ASTON VILLA v COVENTRY

Coventry's 5-0 win over Blackburn, the Premiership champions, still defies rational explanation. Ron Atkinson could barely believe it, either. "When it got to five, I thought to myself, 'if we defend like we normally do, we might just get a point out of this'," he said. With Coventry never having won at Villa Park in a league encounter, Ron's cock-a-hoop troops might struggle to repeat their heroics of Highfield Road. Whelan, £2 million from Leeds United, will become the 29th player to be used by Atkinson this season.

LAST SEASON: Aston Villa 0 Coventry 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 1-0, —, 1-1, 4-1, 2-1, 2-0, 0-0, 0-0, 0-0.

How they line up

ASTON VILLA (from): M Bosnich, G Charles, A Wright, G Southgate, R Scimeca, U Ehiogu, P McGrath, A Townsend, M Draper, I Taylor, T Johnson, S Milosevic, D Yorke, N Spink, F Carr.

COVENTRY (from): J Filan, R Shaw, D Busst, P Williams, D Rennie, M Hall, P Telfer, K Richardson, A Pickering, G Strachan, J Salako, D Dublin, P Ndlovu, N Whelan, W Boland, J Gould.

BLACKBURN v MIDDLESBROUGH

In midweek, Chris Coleman chose Ewood Park instead of Highfield Road as his new base, prompting another three of Uncle Jack's millions to leave his Jersey bank account for the mainland, this time destined for Selhurst Park. Yesterday, Coleman's probable debut, against Middlesbrough's mighty midgets, was put on hold as Colin Hendry appeared to have made a remarkable recovery from back and rib injuries. Ray Harford insists the 5-0 loss against Coventry was a one-off. Is there such a thing as a two-off?

LAST SEASON: No fixture.
10-YEAR RECORD: 0-1, —, 0-2, —, 2-4, 1-0, 2-1, 1-1, —, —.

How they line up

BLACKBURN (from): T Flowers, H Berg, G Le Saux, J Kenna, C Sutton, N Marker, S Ripley, D Batty, T Sherwood, L Bohinen, A Shearer, M Newell, P Warhurst, W McKinley, N Gudmundsson, C Coleman.

MIDDLESBROUGH: G Walsh, N Cox, S Vickers, N Pearson, C Whyte, C Liddle, J Pollock, P Stamp, N Barmby, Juninho, J A Fjortoft. **Substitutes:** C Fleming, J Hendrie, A Moore.

NEWCASTLE v EVERTON

David Ginola provokes many contrasting comments and emotions yet none so ludicrous as that uttered by Barry Davies after the flying Frenchman had been fouled by Dennis Wise in the 1-0 defeat at Chelsea. "He who lives by the dive sometimes finds there's no water in the pool," Davies said. *Colemanballs* here we come. Big, bad Duncan Ferguson heads for his first full appearance since re-entering the real world, though St James' Park officials deny they have engaged the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to play him on to the pitch.

LAST SEASON: Newcastle 2 Everton 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-2, 0-4, 1-1, 2-0, —, —, —, —, 1-0, 2-0.

How they line up

NEWCASTLE (from): P Srnicek, W Barton, J Beresford, S Howey, D Peacock, K Gillespie, R Lee, L Clark, D Ginola, P Beardsley, L Ferdinand, P Albert, S Watson, R Elliott, M Hottiger.

EVERTON (from): N Southall, M Jackson, C Short, D Watson, D Unsworth, A Kanchelskis, J Ebbrell, J Parkinson, A Limpar, G Stuart, D Amokachi, J Kearton, B Horne, D Ferguson, A Hinchcliffe.

QPR v BOLTON

Ray Wilkins, when in usual cultured and considered mode, knows what he wants. A first victory in ten Premiership outings, and any addition to a paltry tally of three goals in eight, would be handy for starters. Yet, when a manager announces an 18-strong squad, as he did yesterday, it often means he has no idea of what his team will be and will not name it until he has consulted the missus, crystal ball or tea leaves overnight. Grim times down South Africa Road, which will be grimmer still if Bolton pillage and plunder.

LAST SEASON: No fixture.
10-YEAR RECORD: No fixtures.

How they line up

QPR (from): J Sommer, A Roberts, D Bardsley, D Maddix, A McDonald, R Brevett, S Yates, K Ready, T Challis, S Barker, I Holloway, R Wilkins, A Impey, S Osborn, T Sinclair, B Allen, K Gallen, M Hateley.

BOLTON (from): K Branagan, S Green, J Phillips, G Bergsson, S Curcic, C Fairclough, G Taggart, A Todd, J McGinlay, F de Freitas, S Sellars, M Patterson, S McAnespie, A Davison, W Burnett, R Sneekes.

SHEFFIELD WED v LEEDS

A dour Yorkshire derby, full of parochial spite, or an extravaganza of delicate intricacies that would delight a Dutchman? Possibly the latter, with Wednesday an underrated side that at least try to entertain whether they are winning or losing. David Pleat take a bow. For Leeds, the Yeboah-Brolin combo is only two matches and nine minutes old and yet to convince anybody. Much will depend on whether Yeboah arrives safely out of Africa, where he has been playing for Ghana in the big one against Gabon.

LAST SEASON: Sheffield Wednesday 1 Leeds 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, —, —, 1-6, 1-1, 3-3, 1-1.

How they line up

SHEFF WED (from): K Pressman, I Nolan, L Briscoe, D Walker, P Atherton, C Waddle, S Nicol, M Degryse, G Whittingham, D Hirst, M Bright, J Watts, A Sinton, G Hyde, J Sheridan, C Woods.

LEEDS: J Lukic, G Kelly, D Wetherall, R Jobson, A Dorigo, B Deane, C Palmer, G McAllister, G Speed, A Yeboah, T Brolin. **Substitutes:** to be announced.

WEST HAM v SOUTHAMPTON

Le Tissier has received more notice this season for his disciplinary exploits than for those of a skill-based, bewitching nature. Six bookings and a sending-off have left him one yellow card short of suspension, suggesting his overall contribution to the Southampton cause could drift even further into obscurity than it has done already. Terry Venables, as if he needs reminding, has a lot for which to answer. Miklosko keeps his place in the West Ham goal, despite Dicks's comical impersonation at Goodison Park.

LAST SEASON: West Ham 2 Southampton 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 3-1, 2-1, 1-2, —, —, 0-1, —, 3-3, 2-0.

How they line up

WEST HAM (from): L Miklosko, T Breacker, J Dicks, M Rieper, S Potts, K Rowland, A Martin, J Moncur, I Bishop, R Slater, J Harkes, D Williamson, M Hughes, A Cottee, I Dowie, M Boogers, D Hutchison.

SOUTHAMPTON (from): D Beasant, J Dodd, F Benali, K Monkou, R Hall, J Magilton, B Venison, M Le Tissier, N Shipperley, G Watson, S Charlton, N Maddison, M Oakley, P Tisdale, B Grobbelaar.

WIMBLEDON v TOTTENHAM

Wimbledon without Vinnie Jones? It seems barely credible, the most notorious member of the Crazy Gang again leaving his spiritual home for pastures new. Last time, in 1989, it was for Leeds United; this time, there might not be so many top-[illegible] takers for a player of such dubious reliability. He is, also, 30. [illegible] will probably appear on the team-sheet today, hoping to [illegible] Tottenham's sequence of only one defeat in 14 outings. If Sheringham fails a late fitness test, the unlikely could become possible.

LAST SEASON: Wimbledon 1 Tottenham 2.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, 2-2, 5-0, 1-2, 1-6, 5-1, 3-5, 1-1, 2-1, 1-2.

How they line up

WIMBLEDON (from): P Heald, K Cunningham, A Kimble, C Perry, A Reeves, J Goodman, O Leonhardsen, R Earle, E Ekoku, M Harford, D Holdsworth, G Elkins, A Thorn, M Gayle, J Euell, A Clarke, A Pearce.

TOTTENHAM (from): I Walker, S Campbell, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, C Wilson, R Fox, D Howells, J Dozzell, R Rosenthal, E Sheringham, C Armstrong, C Day, J Edinburgh, G McMahon, S Nethercott, S Slade.

TOMORROW

LIVERPOOL v MANCHESTER UNITED

Apart from the usual abundance of inter-city vitriol, mostly dished out from the cheap seats, the comparison between Cole and Collymore should prove intriguing. Each has struggled to adjust since their monster money transfers, but Collymore at least appears to be emerging from the deepest of doldrums, with goals in his past two matches. Cole has not scored in [illegible]

LAST SEASON: Liverpool 2 Manchester Utd 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: [illegible]

How they line up

[illegible]

HOW THEY STAND

		P	Pts	Goal diff	Recent form
1	Newcastle	17	39	+21	WDWDL
2	Manchester Utd	17	35	+18	WWDDD
3	Arsenal	17	30	+11	LWDDD
4	Middlesbrough	17	30	+8	DLWDW
5	Tottenham	17	30	+6	WWDDW
6	Aston Villa	17	29	+8	DWLDD
7	Liverpool	17	28	+14	LDLDW
8	Nottm Forest	16	27	+3	WLDDD
9	Leeds	16	25	+3	DWLLD
10	Chelsea	17	24	-2	LWDDW
11	Everton	17	23	+3	WWDDW
12	Blackburn	17	21	+3	LWDWL
13	West Ham	17	20	-6	WDWLL
14	Sheffield Wed	17	18	-5	DLDWD
15	Southampton	17	17	-10	LLWDD
16	Manchester City	17	15	-17	DWWWL
17	Wimbledon	17	14	-14	DLDDD
18	QPR	17	12	-13	DLLDL
19	Coventry	17	12	-14	DLDLW
20	Bolton	17	9	-17	WLLDL

MONDAY

MANCHESTER CITY v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Woan, Woan and thrice Woan. The Forest winger got his comeuppance when writing off his club's chances of further progress in the Uefa Cup and also telling Frank Clark that he deserved much bigger bucks for his magnificent contribution this season. Clark has a touch of Clough cussedness coursing through his veins, with the result that Woan was dropped, and suitably chastised, for his cheek. He should be back on Monday, though, tail between legs and patrolling the Maine Road flanks. In contrast, Clark's stock rises with his every step.

LAST SEASON: Manchester City 3 Nottm Forest 3.
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-2, 1-0, —, —, 0-3, 3-1, 2-1, 2-2, —, 3-3.

How they line up

MAN CITY (from): E Immel, S Lomas, K Curle, G Kinkladze, N Quinn, I Brightwell, K Symons, N Summerbee, U Rösler, G Creaney, A Kernaghan, A Coton, L Crooks, M Brown, M Phillips, R Ingram.

NOTTM FOREST (from): M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, A I Haaland, S Stone, C Bart-Williams, S Gemmill, P McGregor, S Howe, K Campbell, A Silenzi, D Phillips, R Irving, S Chettle, J Lee.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

10.50pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights)

Tomorrow

12 noon Sky Sports Goals on Sunday

3.00pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday
Liverpool v Manchester United

Monday

7.00pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday Night Football
Manchester City v Nottingham Forest

Compiled by Russell Kempson, Julian Desborough

McCoy giving natural talent free rein

Andrew Longmore

on the man setting the pace in the race for the jockeys' title

McCoy has drawn comparisons with Dunwoody, the champion jockey, during his sudden emergence this season

No telephone service has yet been devised that can match the speed of the Irish bush telegraph in transmitting the whispers of a special talent. Fifteen months ago, Tony McCoy had not ridden a steeplechase winner, yet word had it that the succession to a great line of master jockeys was already secure and a total of more than 150 winners in the intervening time has silenced those sceptics who thought the news hailed from the Blarney Stone.

McCoy, 21, leads the jockeys' championship with 91 winners in his first full season as a professional, and if many think that it is only a matter of time before David Bridgwater and Adrian Maguire, backed by the big stables of Martin Pipe and David Nicholson, restore order, McCoy has already advertised his services as a future champion.

After being suspended for a week for taking the wrong route at Taunton, McCoy responded to his first hint of adversity and dispelled his own beginners' sense of insecurity by riding a treble at Windsor on his fourth day back. At Ascot's competitive meeting today, he has another attractive book of rides.

In the weighing room, where the judgments are the soundest and toughest, the blond, fresh-faced Northern Irishman seems to have been accepted with an ease reserved for the truly gifted. He is a nice lad, which helps, modest to a fault, dedicated, determined. His quiet voice still betrays a touching sense of wonder at the suddenness of his success.

"This time last year, I'd not ridden 15 winners, now I've ridden 150. It has been a big shock to the system. It's hard to think what it was like before," he said. "When I look around the weighing room, I sometimes ask myself, 'What am I doing sitting beside these guys?' " It's quite amazing. They are the tops and I'm beside them."

Ask McCoy about his main influence, however, and only natural diplomacy stops him from dismissing the rest altogether as he voices his admiration for Richard Dunwoody. Like Dunwoody, McCoy is taller than is ideal for a jump jockey, about 5ft 9in, but visitors to Sandown Park recently, when an exhibition of riding by Dunwoody was interrupted briefly by another McCoy winner, would have been forgiven for thinking they were seeing double. The straight back, the low, deep seat for guidance, the neat movements and the rhythmic, balanced finish all told how closely the heir apparent to the jockeys' title had followed the champion during his formative years as an apprentice in Ireland.

"I can't remember John Francome as well as others can so, to me, Richard is the best jockey I've ever seen," McCoy said. "He is the ultimate pro, someone who demands perfection in everything he does. I would never dream of putting myself in the same class." Dunwoody is only too happy to repay the compliment.

"I beat him by a short head at the Galway Festival a couple of summers ago and people were telling me he was one to watch out for," Dunwoody recalled. "It sounds corny to say it, but I see myself in him, in his attitude. He's very conscientious about everything he does."

McCoy's rise is all the more remarkable for the fact that it stems from no discernible racing pedigree. McCoy's father kept broodmares for a hobby, his brother is an all-Ireland boxing champion and his four sisters have only adopted an interest in racing to follow Tony. But, soon after he first rode a horse, at the age of 11, McCoy knew what he wanted to do for a living and that was that. "I was quite adamant I wanted to be a jockey and my parents just accepted it," he said.

His first ride in public came at Phoenix Park in September, 1990, but a mere trickle of winners followed until an introduction to Toby Balding at Wexford races in the summer of 1994 prompted a move to England to follow the footsteps of Adrian Maguire, another of Balding's protégés: "It was not a big move for me because I'd not done anything major in Ireland, but I thought it would be difficult to break into it over here."

McCoy proved himself comprehensively wrong. In his first season, he won the conditional championship and, by continuing without a break through last summer, established himself quickly with Balding and the increasingly powerful stable of Paul Nicholls as a talented all-round rider and a hard worker. He admits that he will ride any horse for anyone, anywhere. When the rest returned to work in the autumn, McCoy's name was already lit in neon.

"He's a natural," Nicholls said. "It's hard to put your finger on it, but horses run and jump for him and come out of their races well. He's intelligent, he talks a lot of sense, so you can learn from him and, like Dunwoody, he's brilliant at schooling a horse.

"Others say he's so inexperienced, but that doesn't bother me. I can see him being another Dunwoody in time, but, if I can, I'd like to help him win the championship this season."

McCoy himself will not let his head be turned by such a prospect. "If I was champion at the end of the season, then brilliant, but it's too early to be worrying about it. I'm still learning my trade," he said.

LEADING JOCKEYS

	Winners	Rides
A P McCoy	91	334
D Bridgwater	71	281
P Niven	42	169
R Dunwoody	39	197
A Dobbin	31	110
M A Fitzgerald	31	215
L Wyer	31	134
A Maguire	30	159
C Llewellyn	28	158
W Marston	26	175
N Williamson	24	107
J Osborne	24	152
Peter Hobbs	23	129

Unguided Missile aims for successful mission

By Richard Evans, racing journalist of the year

PUNTERS occupy a broad church. Some are form book gurus, influenced exclusively by weights, distance, ground and the comparative performance of horses. Others pay particular attention to jockeyship or in-form trainers. A few prosper by studying the conditions and historical trends of a race to help identify a selection.

At Ascot today, the disparate groups that make up the congregation of backers should be able to unite and agree that **Unguided Missile** (1.55) fulfils all their particular requirements in the Betterware Cup Chase and, at 7-2 with the Tote, looks well worth a bet.

For those who have delved into the past winners of the race, the omens are excellent. Six of the last ten runnings have been won by a seven-year-olds, normally in the bottom half of the handicap. Unguided Missile, the only seven-year-old among the nine runners, has 10st 8lb.

The progressive form shown by the Gordon Richards-trained runner during his last three races, including when he just failed to give lumps of weight away in a fast-run race at Wetherby two weeks ago, gives him the edge today over a trip and on ground which should be ideal.

Richard Dunwoody, who is riding better than at any time in his distinguished career, resumes his partnership with Unguided Missile which began when winning a valuable race at Ayr in April and continued on his first start this term, when defeating Scotton Banks at Cheltenham.

Dunwoody was not available at Wetherby when an uncharacteristic error four fences from home damaged Unguided Missile's winning chances. "Richard enjoys riding for me and I enjoy having him on my horses," Gordon Richards said yesterday. "He's a happier man this season. He was a bag of nerves last year, always on edge. If a man is happy, he concentrates more."

Richards, whose 38 per cent strike rate this season is the highest in the land and tells its own story, added: "I bought Unguided Missile at the Doncaster sales three years ago and he was a bit disappointing the first season, but from then on he has just kept on improving. I think he is a rather nice horse and he goes to Ascot with a good chance."

Couldnt Be Better and Rough Quest are sure to be popular fancies, based on their first and second placings in the Hennessy, but the much faster ground could count against both and Young Hustler is a bigger danger to my selection.

In the earlier televised races, **Call Equiname** (12.50) has twice beaten Speedwell Prince and may have most to fear in the Mitie Group Kennel Gate Novices' Hurdle from Strong Promise, who made all to win here a month ago and is open to further improvement.

Putty Road (1.20), the Sun Alliance Hurdle winner, should relish the step up to an extended three miles offered by the Long Walk Hurdle, after a sound effort behind Chief's Song, the subsequent William Hill Hurdle winner, over an inadequate two miles at Cheltenham last month. Padre Mio, the Fighting Fifth winner, has never raced beyond 2¼ miles but would have strong claims if getting the trip.

Away from Ascot, David Nicholson-trained runners can complete an across-the-card double with **King Lucifer** (3.10 Haydock) and **Potter's Gale** (3.35 Uttoxeter). **Livio** ran pleasingly at Haydock last Saturday, and can oblige at Catterick (1.25) having been dropped in class.

High Padre has bounced back to his best form for Jimmy Fitzgerald this term and is taken to complete a quick treble in the marathon St Helens Handicap Chase (2.10 Haydock), while **Celibate** should appreciate the return to two miles in the competitive Widnes Handicap Hurdle (1.40 Haydock).

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Unguided Missile
(1.55 Ascot)

Next best: Livio
(1.25 Catterick)

THE TIMES
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HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

12.10 Domappel. 12.40 Sovereigns Parade. 1.10 Strong Medicine. 1.40 Celibate. 2.10 High Padre. 2.40 **LANSBOROUGH** (nap). 3.10 King Lucifer. 3.40 Harlequin Chorus.

Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.10 **DOMAPPEL**.

Newmarket Correspondent:
12.10 **DOMAPPEL** (nap).

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.10 HINDLEY GREEN JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,957: 2m) (20 runners)

101 16 CIRACUSA 23 (D,BF,G) J Mackie 11-4 T Eley 86
102 0 ABINGER 9 Miss M Rowland 10-12 Gary Lyons 72
103 0 BARTON HEIGHTS 21 Mrs M Reveley 10-12 P Niven —
104 0 BEAU MATELOT 9 Miss M Milligan 10-12 R Guest 60
105 32 DALLY BOY 9 M H Easterby 10-12 L Wyer 88
106 0 DANCE KING 9 R Harris 10-12 V Smith —
107 5 DOMAPPEL 8 Mrs J Cecil 10-12 T Kent [illegible]
108 FAUSTINO 95F P Hobbs 10-12 G McCourt —
109 40 GENUINE LEADER 22 (B) P Murphy 10-12 N Mann —
110 MARCHANT MING 95F M Hammond 10-12 M Dwyer —
111 NESSUN DORO 33F S Mellor 10-12 M Perrett —
112 45 NORDIC BREEZE 9 (BF) A Bailey 10-12 D Gallagher 78
113 NORTHERN CHARMER 53F E Alston 10-12 T Dascombe (5) —
114 F SILVER SLEEVE 9 M Hammond 10-12 A Dobbin —
115 SOLATIUM 58F M Pipe 10-12 J Evans —
116 0 SPANISH STEPS 32 M W Easterby 10-12 W Marston —
117 0 VINTAGE TAITTINGER 21 T Dyer 10-12 Peter Hobbs —
118 CAROL AGAIN 74F N Bycroft 10-7 D Towler (7) —
119 3626 CULLIN CAPER 16 T Watson 10-7 J F Titley 88
120 0 NEW BROOM 66 M H Easterby 10-7 F Leahy (3) —

9-4 Domappel, 4-1 Solatium, 9-2 Dally Boy, 6-1 Ciracusa, 8-1 Abinger, Nordic Breeze, 10-1 New Broom, 12-1 others

12.40 HINDLEY GREEN JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,957: 2m) (20)

201 11 PADDY'S RETURN 28 (D,F,G) F Murphy 11-10 M Dwyer [illegible]
202 12 INDIAN JOCKEY 84F (BF,F) M Pipe 11-4 J Evans 92
203 ABSOLUTE FOLLY 15F Mrs S Smith 10-12 R Guest —
204 422F BASIL STREET 35 (B,BF) C Mann 10-12 D Gallagher 90
205 44 CADDY'S FIRST 22 S Mellor 10-12 M Perrett 92
206 EIGHT SHARP 94F M Hammond 10-12 A Dobbin —
207 ELPIDOS 63F M Hammond 10-12 Mr C Bonner (3) —
208 FIRST BITE 80F T Dyer 10-12 Peter Hobbs —
209 4 GOSPEL SONG 21 A Whillans 10-12 B Harding (3) 84
210 INDICATOR 176F J Dunn 10-12 P Niven —
211 00 MAJOR SNUGFIT 17 M W Easterby 10-12 W Marston 67
212 MIM-LOU-AND 110F Miss H Knight 10-12 J F Titley —
213 32 MR LOWRY 45 L Barratt 10-12 S Wynne 81
214 PENBOLA 190F M H Easterby 10-12 L Wyer —
215 0 RAZMAK 35 R Fisher 10-12 M Moloney —
216 RIVER WYE 26F J Carr 10-12 N Smith —
217 00 SEDVICTA 21 Mrs M Reveley 10-12 T J Comerford (7) 71
218 SOVEREIGNS PARADE 61F N Henderson 10-12 J R Kavanagh —
219 QUILLWORK 58F Mrs J Cecil 10-7 T Kent —
220 WALK IN THE WILD 33F A Bailey 10-7 A Thornton —

2-1 Paddy's Return, 7-2 Indian Jockey, 6-1 Sovereigns Parade, 8-1 Caddy's First, Mr Lowry, 10-1 Quillwork, Gospel Song, 12-1 others

1.10 BOSTON PIT HANDICAP CHASE (£5,084: 2m 4f) (12)

301 0/F- ALL FOR LUCK 398 (D,G,S) M Pipe 10-12-0 J Evans 93
302 -321 STRONG MEDICINE 8 (D,F,G) K Bailey 8-11-13 A Thornton [illegible]
303 1-54 GREENHILL RAFFLES 28 (D,F,G,S) P Hobbs 9-11-9 G McCourt 92
304 21-2 VALIANT WARRIOR 14 (CD,F,G,S) M Hammond 7-11-8 Mr C Bonner (3) 95
305 1P-4 NEWLANDS-GENERAL 8 (G,S) J Fitzgerald 9-11-7 M Dwyer 87
306 -421 MASTER BOSTON 14 (D,G,S) R Woodhouse 7-11-5 L Wyer 96
307 F-54 STRONG DEEL 14 (D,F,G,S) W Reed 7-11-4 T Reed 93
308 1-3U DARK OAK 14 (D,G,S) J Curtis 9-11-4 L O'Hara 95
309 F0P- NORTHERN SQUIRE 231 (D,G,S) J Jefferson 7-10-13 R Davis 98
310 F261 SAILOR JIM 21 (CD,F,G,S) P Dalton 8-10-10 W Marston 97
311 412- RICHARDSON 233 (F,S) J Fitzgerald 8-10-3 F Leahy (3) 94
312 3-4P VISAGA 9 (F,S) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-1 C Maude 97

11-4 Strong Medicine, 7-2 All For Luck, 9-2 Valiant Warrior, 6-1 Master Boston, 7-1 Dark Oak, 8-1 Greenhill Raffles, 10-1 Newlands-General, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Gaselee, 3 winners from 9 runners, 33.3%; Mrs M Reveley, 11 from 35, 31.4%; Miss H Knight, 3 from 10, 30.0%; C Brooks, 8 from 27, 29.6%; G Richards, 32 from 110, 29.1%.

JOCKEYS: J F Titley, 3 winners from 7 rides, 42.9%; N Mann, 3 from 7, 42.9%; G McCourt, 10 from 45, 22.2%; A Dobbin, 8 from 36, 22.2%; C Maude, 3 from 14, 21.4%.

1.40 WIDNES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,729: 2m) (18)

401 10-0 GOLDEN HELLO 14 (D,F,G,S) M H Easterby 4-11-10 L Wyer 91
402 -000 WHITE WILLOW 14 (D,F,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-10 P Niven 95
403 25-3 NOYAN 14 (D,F,G) D Nicholls 5-11-8 S Mason 95
404 4-04 FRICKLEY 19 (D,G,S) F Murphy 9-11-3 P Carberry 90
405 2011 KAITAK 7 (CD,G) J Carr 4-11-2 F Leahy (3) 93
406 0-30 ALBEMINE 14 (D,F) Mrs J Cecil 6-11-1 T Kent 94
407 5/P INDIAN QUEST 14 (D,S) N Gaselee 6-11-0 D Gallagher —
408 2-62 LITTLE BROMLEY 14 (D,F,G,S) A Eubank 8-11-0 A Dobbin 96
409 5212 CELIBATE 21 (D,BF,F,S) C Mann 4-10-13 Muredach Kelly (7) [illegible]
410 1/0- IFALLELSEFAILS 434 (F) L Lungo 7-10-11 T Reed 92
411 44-5 MUNTAFI 18 (CD,S) G Harwood 4-10-11 M Perrett 91
412 -135 SQUIRE YORK 42 (V,D,F,S) Mrs L Murphy 5-10-10 W Marston 93
413 /00- MY KERRY DANCER 175F (D,G) J J O'Neill 5-10-10 G McCourt 89
414 26-1 FAIR AND FANCY 10 (D,G,S) Miss M Milligan 4-10-3 R Guest 96
415 3/2 NATIVE FIELD 21 (D,F,S) J Fitzgerald 6-10-2 M Dwyer 94
416 1F4- FLAT TOP 242 (S) M W Easterby 4-10-1 J F Titley 90
417 41/ OUR SLIMBRIDGE 539F (D,F,G,S) A Carroll 7-10-0 R Davis —
418 -121 MR DEVIOUS 110 (B,D,F) A Whillans 4-10-0 M Moloney 81

6-1 Kaitak, 7-1 Celibate, 8-1 Fair And Fancy, Frickley, 9-1 Little Bromley, Native Field, 10-1 Golden Hello, 12-1 others

2.10 ST HELENS HANDICAP CHASE (£7,035: 4m 110yd) (7)

501 5-FP INTO THE RED 15 (G,S) J White 11-11-7 P McLoughlin 90
502 -545 GOLD CAP 15 (B,G,S) P Hobbs 10-11-7 G McCourt 93
503 5-3U ARTHUR'S MINSTREL 25 (F,G,S) D Nicholson 8-11-5 W Marston 96
504 -253 SILVER STICK 14 (B,F,G,S) M W Easterby 8-11-2 L Wyer 98
505 1-F5 MR FLANAGAN 16 (BF,G,S) C Brooks 9-10-13 D Gallagher 91
506 /11 HIGH PADRE 21 (F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 9-10-9 M Dwyer 98
507 -PP1 STUNNING STUFF 9 (B,F,G) T George 10-10-8 P Niven [illegible]

7-4 High Padre, 7-2 Arthur's Minstrel, 5-1 Silver Stick, Stunning Stuff, 7-1 Into The Red, 12-1 Mr Flanagan, 14-1 Gold Cap

2.40 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £3,243: 2m) (18)

601 2111 SIMPLY DASHING 14 (D,F,G) M H Easterby 4-11-10 L Wyer [illegible]
602 P-21 LANSBOROUGH 23 (G) G Richards 5-11-5 P Carberry 93
603 CAMERA MAN N Henderson 5-11-0 J R Kavanagh —
604 CELTIC GIANT L Lungo 5-11-0 L O'Hara —
605 22- CIRCUS LINE 315 M W Easterby 4-11-0 W Marston 84
606 CORSTON JOKER L Lungo 5-11-0 T Reed —
607 BP/ FRANK KNOWS 760 T George 5-11-0 Peter Hobbs —
608 0-66 HANGING GROVE 15 P Murphy 5-11-0 N Mann 81
609 5-03 HIGHBEATH 24 Mrs M Reveley 4-11-0 P Niven —
610 LANCE ARMSTRONG Mrs M McCourt 5-11-0 G McCourt —
611 01-4 MONYMAN 18 (F) M Hammond 5-11-0 Mr C Bonner (3) 76
612 0-P0 SHANNON LAD 49 A Carroll 5-11-0 R Davis —
613 0- THE NAUGHTY VICAR 261 S Mellor 5-11-0 M Perrett —
614 0 THE WAYWARD BISHOP 24 D Gandolfo 6-11-0 D Leahy —
615 233- THURSDAY NIGHT 232 J Fitzgerald 4-11-0 M Dwyer —
616 10-2 WILD WEST WIND 38 (S) Miss H Knight 5-11-0 J F Titley 94
617 00-4 OLD BETSY 17 Mrs S Smith 5-10-9 L McGrath (7) —
618 /04- SKI PATH 201 N Bycroft 6-10-9 D Towler (7) —

5-2 Lansborough, 7-2 Simply Dashing, 6-1 Wild West Wind, 7-1 Camera Man, 8-1 Circus Line, 10-1 Highbeath, 12-1 Old Betsy, 14-1 others.

3.10 SOUTHPORT NOVICES CHASE (£4,970: 2m 4f) (4)

1 U122 SPANISH LIGHT 14 (C,D,F) G Richards 6-11-12 A Dobbin 71
2 22-3 CHALIE RICHARDS 11 Mrs L Williamson 6-11-0 M Dwyer 56
3 21-2 KING LUCIFER 19 (G,S) D Nicholson 6-11-0 W Marston [illegible]
4 12-3 WISE ADVICE 55 (F) M Hammond 5-11-0 P Niven 57

1-2 King Lucifer, 9-4 Spanish Light, 6-1 Wise Advice, 20-1 Chalie Richards

3.40 THELWALL STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£2,052: 2m) (20)

1 BUSTER BOB 21 Mrs J Pitman 5-11-11 S Knott (7) —
2 15 OATTARA 18 (G) W McKeown 5-11-11 A Stanford —
3 01 COME ON PENNY 12 (F) D Gandolfo 4-11-6 D Leahy —
4 2/0- BALLYALLIA CASTLE 280 R Fisher 6-11-4 [illegible] —
5 COSA FUARR K Bailey 5-11-4 A Thornton —
6 [illegible]
7 CONE ASHORE M Barnes 4-11-4 P Waggott —
8 GREAT GABLE D Moffatt 4-11-4 D J Moffatt —
9 HARLEQUIN CHORUS [illegible] —
10 KALADROSS 18 W Jenks 4-11-4 S Cotton (5) —
11 [illegible]
12 MARTIN DE PORRES M Pipe 5-11-4 R Guest —
13 NOOSA SOUND L Lungo 5-11-4 T Reed —
14 OUT BY NIGHT G Moore 4-11-4 [illegible] —
15 PALOSANTO M Pipe 5-11-4 J Evans —
16 PARADE RACER P Murphy 4-11-4 N Mann —
17 4 SCHWARTZNDIGGER 19 N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4 [illegible] —
18 SWANBISTER L Lungo 5-11-4 L O'Hara —
19 THE NEXT WALTZ L Lungo 4-11-4 J Jardine (7) —
20 BOWLAND PARK E Alston 4-10-13 T Dascombe (5) —

2-1 Buster Bob, 4-1 Palosanto, 5-1 Martin De Porres, 7-1 Come On Penny, 8-1 Harlequin Chorus, 10-1 [illegible], 12-1 others

☐ Dennis Leahy was given a five-day ban at Hereford yesterday for irresponsible riding. Partnering River Leven in the Caraway Novices' Handicap Chase, Leahy was found to have interfered with the eventual winner, Dawn Chance, and was banned from December 26 to December 30. Apprentice Amanda Sanders was suspended for two days (December 30 and January 1) for careless riding when winning on Four Of Spades at Lingfield.

ASCOT

THUNDERER

12.15 Linden's Lotto
12.50 Call Equiname
1.20 Sweet Glow
1.55 Unguided Missile
2.30 Thumbs Up
3.00 Mysilv

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

12.15 NOEL NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: £11,544: 2m 3f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 60-1311 CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE 14 (C,F,G,S) (Cumbrian Industrials) M H Easterby 6-11-10 R Garritty 92
2 1F1231 LINDEN'S LOTTO 28 (D,F,G,S) (Crockett Racing Club) J White 6-11-10 A Maguire [illegible]
3 51125/1 DARK HONEY 15 (G,S) (Sir Sanyeri) S Dow 10-11-7 R Dunwoody 90
4 1231-21 CHALLENGER DU LUC 10 (B,F,S) (J & J Securities Ltd) M Pipe 5-11-3 D Bridgwater 95
5 211P06- GIVUS A CALL 238 (S) (T Banfield and Mr W Brown) J Gifford 5-11-3 P Hide —
6 1P-124F GO BALLISTIC 21 (G,S) (Mrs B Lockhart) J O'Shea 6-11-3 M A Fitzgerald 91
7 0043/1F PEATSWOOD 16 (F,G,S) (P Taplin) M Channon 7-11-3 J Osborne 87
8 61300-6 SENOR EL BETRUTTI 24 (S) (G Nock) Mrs S Nock 6-11-3 G Bradley —

BETTING: 7-4 Cumbrian Challenge, 4-1 Linden's Lotto, 9-2 Dark Honey, 5-1 Go Ballistic, 11-2 Givus A Call, 8-1 Challenger Du Luc, 14-1 others.

1994: BOOK OF MUSIC 6-11-3 N Williamson (13-2) K Bailey 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE completed double, beat Spanish Light 6l in 6-runner novice chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good). LINDEN'S LOTTO beat Lake Of Loughrea 8l in 3-runner novice chase at Aintree (2m 4f, good to firm). DARK HONEY beat Sharp Performer 30l in 2-runner novice chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good). CHALLENGER DU LUC beat Futuresecretary 3l in 7-runner novice chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). Previously beat 2nd of 14 to Seek The Faith in a novice chase at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft) with SENOR EL BETRUTTI 45l 6th. GO BALLISTIC every chance when fell 3 out in 4-runner conditions chase won by Major Summit at Newbury (2m 4f, soft). PEATSWOOD beat No Light 4l in 5-runner novice chase at Leicester (2m 1f, firm) on penultimate start.

Selection: DARK HONEY

12.50 MITIE GROUP KENNEL GATE NOVICES HURDLE (Grade II: (£8,137: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)

BBC1

1 42-1021 CALL EQUINAME 15 (B,D,G) (M Coburn, P Barber, C Lewis) P Nicholls 5-11-4 A P McCoy [illegible]
2 21-1214 SPEEDWELL PRINCE 35 (CD,F) (Bar Fixtures P'ship) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4 C Llewellyn 92
3 0P5-151 STRONG PROMISE 28 (CD,F,G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 4-11-4 K Gaule 96
4 U-33 DJAIS 8 (BF) (T Long) J Jenkins 5-11-0 A Maguire 86
5 5/2111- FONTAINEROUGE 336 (G) (Mrs D Tipper) C Brooks 5-11-0 G Bradley —
6 5 JUST 'N ACE 28 (Mrs J Abesson) J Gifford 4-11-0 P Hide 83
7 30-F4 REVEREND BROWN 15 (J Palmer-Brown) O Sherwood 5-11-0 J Osborne 66
8 0 BUZZARDS HALL 10 (D Cooper) M Chapman 5-10-9 W Worthington —
9 50- LALINDI 179F (B) (White Horse Racing Ltd) D Elsworth 4-10-9 P Holley 70
10 50-5 PARSONS KNOCK 189 (Clock House Racing) R Rowe 5-10-9 D O'Sullivan —

BETTING: 5-2 Call Equiname, 3-1 Speedwell Prince, 4-1 Strong Promise, 7-1 Djais, Reverend Brown, 8-1 Fontainerouge, 16-1 Lalindi, 20-1 others

1994: BERUDE NOT TO 5-11-7 J Osborne (10-11 fav) O Sherwood 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

CALL EQUINAME beat Crack On 4l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good) with REVEREND BROWN (6lb worse off) 22l 4th. SPEEDWELL PRINCE beat Mr Edgar 4l in 11-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (good to firm) on penultimate start. STRONG PROMISE beat Well Arranged 8l in 10-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (good) with JUST'N'ACE 4l 5th. DJAIS 10½l 3rd of 18 to Campaign in novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good to firm).
FONTAINROUGE completed double, beat Grafton Girl 2½l in 7-runner National Hunt Flat race at Leopardstown (2m, yielding). LALINDI about 25½l 5th of 13 to Golden Arrow in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to soft) on penultimate hurdles start, January 1995.

Selection: CALL EQUINAME

1.20 LONG WALK HURDLE (Grade I: £25,996: 3m 1f 110yd) (12 runners)

BBC1

1 PP1/1P0 ADMIRAL'S WELL 74 (C,F,G,S) (A Spence) R Akehurst 5-11-7 M A Fitzgerald 83
2 1PP4-65 BELVEDERIAN 28 (G,S) (Dr A O'Reilly) M Morris 8-11-7 C O'Dwyer —
3 612-111 CORKET 44 (G,S) (S O'Sullivan) A O'Brien 5-11-7 R Dunwoody 80
4 21FP-25 GILLAN COVE 8 (S) (Forum Racing) R Alner 6-11-7 C Llewellyn 87
5 12300-2 ISLAND JEWEL 21 (S) (M Cartwright) J Bosley 7-11-7 M Bosley 96
6 /00P/4-3 MORLEY STREET 29 (C,F,G,S) (M Jackson Bl'dstock) G Balding 11-11-7 A P McCoy 98
7 231-213 NON VINTAGE 21 (C,G,S) (A Mann) M Chapman 4-11-7 W Worthington 90
8 22-1101 PADRE MIO 21 (G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) C Brooks 7-11-7 G Bradley [illegible]
9 41113-2 PUTTY ROAD 25 (BF,G,S) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 5-11-7 A Maguire 88
10 11223-3 SILVER WEDGE 42 (C,G,S) (E S & W V Robins) O Sherwood 4-11-7 J Osborne 79
11 2/54P4-6 SWEET GLOW 8 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs M Fairbrother) M Pipe 8-11-7 D Bridgwater 94
12 2206P-4 TOP SPIN 21 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs E Long) J Jenkins 6-11-7 R Hughes 89

BETTING: 9-2 Putty Road, 5-1 Padre Mio, 6-1 Corket, 7-1 Sweet Glow, Island Jewel, 8-1 Gillan Cove, Silver Wedge, 10-1 others.

1994: HEBRIDEAN 7-11-7 A Maguire (100-30) D Nicholson 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

ADMIRAL'S WELL best effort this season, beat NON VINTAGE (19lb worse off) 2½l in 6-runner handicap hurdle here (2m 110yd, good to firm). BELVEDERIAN about 17l 5th of 12 to Consharon in handicap hurdle at Navan (3m, good to yielding). CORKET completed treble, beat Wesbest 6l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Gowran Park (2m 1f, yielding). GILLAN COVE 4½l 5th of 12 to Better Times Ahead in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good) with SWEET GLOW (12lb better off) 5l 6th. ISLAND JEWEL neck 2nd of 7 to Conquering Leader in grade II Akzo Nobel Long Distance Hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, soft) with TOP SPIN 11l 4th. MORLEY STREET 13½l 3rd of 5 to Large Action in grade II Coopers & Lybrand Ascot Hurdle here (2m 4f, good).
PADRE MIO beat Chief Minister ½l in 7-runner grade II Beltway Homes Fighting Fifth Limited Handicap Hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good) with NON VINTAGE (6lb worse off) ½l 3rd. PUTTY ROAD 3l 2nd of 4 to Chief's Song in conditions hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). Best effort last season, beat Berude Not To head in 21-runner grade I Sun Alliance Novices Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, soft). SILVER WEDGE 5½l 3rd of 15 to Jibber The Kibber in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft).

Selection: SWEET GLOW (nap)

1.55 BETTERWARE CUP (Handicap chase: (£21,271: 3m 110yd) (9 runners)

BBC1

1 25U2-21 YOUNG HUSTLER 28 (CD,F,G,S) (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 8-12-0 C Llewellyn 93
2 210P-11 COULDNT BE BETTER 21 (CD,F,G,S) (R Whittle) C Brooks 8-11-8 G Bradley 98
3 6252P0- RIVERSIDE BOY 252 (D,G,S) (Blegrove Partnership) M Pipe 12-11-1 D Bridgwater 92
4 3211-F2 ROUGH QUEST 21 (G,S) (A Wates) T Casey 9-11-0 M A Fitzgerald 95
5 104PP-5 SIBTON ABBEY 28 (V,D,F,G,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 10-10-8 K Gaule (3) 93
6 15F1-12 UNGUIDED MISSILE 14 (D,BF,F,G) (D Harrison) G Richards 7-10-8 R Dunwoody [illegible]
7 121-U3P UNHOLY ALLIANCE 8 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Nelson) K Bailey 8-10-4 J Osborne 91
8 11/12-44 GHIA GNEUIAGH 8 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Scott) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-0 A Maguire 88
9 1P156-1 YORKSHIRE GALE 8 (D,G,S) (B Naylor) J Gifford 9-10-0 (5ex) A P McCoy 92

Long handicap: Ghia Gneuiagh 9-11, Yorkshire Gale 9-9.

BETTING: 9-4 Couldnt Be Better, 5-2 Rough Quest, 3-1 Unguided Missile, 9-2 Young Hustler, 6-1 Yorkshire Gale, 20-1 Riverside Boy, Ghia Gneuiagh, 25-1 others.

1994: RAYMYLETTE 7-10-9 M Fitzgerald (3-1 jt-fav) N Henderson 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

YOUNG HUSTLER beat Sir Peter Lely 6l in 10-runner handicap chase at Aintree (3m 3f, good to firm). COULDNT BE BETTER completed double, beat ROUGH QUEST (9lb better off) 14l in 11-runner grade III Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup Handicap at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, soft). RIVERSIDE BOY 28l 8th of 35 to Royal Athlete in 35-runner Martell Grand National Handicap Chase at Aintree (4m 4f, good) with YOUNG HUSTLER (3lb better off) unseated rider 3rd. UNGUIDED MISSILE 1l 2nd of 7 to Lo Stregone in handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, good). UNHOLY ALLIANCE 10l 3rd of 7 to Dextra Dove in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good) on penultimate start. YORKSHIRE GALE beat Edimbourg 2½l in 6-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good) with GHIA GNEUIAGH (3lb better off) distant 4th. UNHOLY ALLIANCE (6lb better off) tailed off when pulled up before 11th.

Selection: UNGUIDED MISSILE

2.30 FROGMORE HANDICAP CHASE (£9,713: 2m) (8 runners)

1 441U40- UNCLE ERNIE 252 (CD,G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) J Fitzgerald 10-11-12 A P McCoy 95
2 2/1223- MARTIN'S LAMP 254 (D,G,S) (& Mrs F Welch) D Nicholson 8-11-6 A Maguire 98
3 431354- YOUNG SNUGFIT 228 (CD,F,G,S) (Elite Racing) O Sherwood 11-11-5 J A McCarthy 98
4 41453-4 THUMBS UP 21 (D,F,S) (M Buckley) N Henderson 9-11-5 M A Fitzgerald 96
5 14/1113- HIGH BARON 315 (D,F,G,S) (Miss C James) R Hodges 8-11-0 R Dunwoody 96
6 11321-5 AROUND THE HORN 22 (D,G,S) (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 8-10-12 S McNeill 97
7 165/1-11 FRONT STREET 21 (D,G,S) (Mrs J Bishop) S Sherwood 8-10-1 J Osborne [illegible]
8 03512-U YOUNG ALFIE 14 (B,D,F,S) (J Parvert) J Parvert 10-10-0 P Holley 66

Long handicap: Young Alfie 7-8.

BETTING: 5-2 Martin's Lamp, 7-2 Front Street, 9-2 Around The Horn, 5-1 Young Snugfit, Uncle Ernie, 11-2 Thumbs Up, 6-1 High Baron, 50-1 Young Alfie

1994: NAKIR 6-11-10 J Osborne (9-4 jt-fav) S Christian 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

UNCLE ERNIE 12½l 4th of 10 to Viking Flagship in grade I Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham (2m, soft) on penultimate start. MARTIN'S LAMP 2½l 3rd of 7 to Morceli in grade I Sanderson Maghull Novices Chase at Aintree (2m, good). YOUNG SNUGFIT 23½l 4th of 5 to Big Matt in handicap chase over course and distance (2m, good to firm). HIGH BARON distant 2nd of 8 to Banjo in grade I Scilly Isles Novices' Chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Earlier beat Brief Gale 5l in 6-runner novice chase at Kempton (2m 4f 110yd, soft). AROUND THE HORN beat Political Tower ½l in 7-runner handicap chase at Ayr (2m, good) on penultimate start, April 1995. FRONT STREET completed treble, beat Gales Cavalier 3l in 4-runner handicap chase at Newbury (2m 1f, heavy) with THUMBS UP (5lb better off) 13½l 4th.

Selection: HIGH BARON

3.00 KNIGHTS ROYAL HURDLE (£5,680: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

1 3111P-3 KISSAIR 21 (D,BF,S) (T Benson) M Pipe 4-11-10 J Lower 76
2 2226-F0 KADASTROF 21 (D,S) (A Paxton) R Dickin 5-11-5 D Meredith 82
3 6115F-1 MYSILV 36 (D,F,G,S) (Elite Racing Club) C Egerton 5-11-5 J Osborne [illegible]
4 2-12P62 PRIDWELL 7 (D,F,G,S) (M Jones) M Pipe 5-11-5 D Bridgwater 80
5 42-1313 STRAWBERRY ANGEL 25 (D,F,S) (Mrs W Jeffords) F Bruce Miller 4-11-5 Blythe Miller 78
6 2F0/1P2- CHIAPPUCCI 245 (G,S) (Mrs E Heath) Mrs E Heath 5-10-12 M A Fitzgerald 50
7 210-350 SHOOFK 21 (S) (S Dow) S Dow 4-10-12 R Dunwoody 66
8 633023 BRITANNIA MILLS 9 (F) (A Mann) M Chapman 4-10-7 W Worthington 50

BETTING: 4-7 Mysilv, 7-2 Kissair, 6-1 Strawberry Angel, 8-1 Pridwell, Kadastrof, 25-1 Shoofk, 50-1 others.

1994: RELKEEL 5-11-8 A Maguire (1-8 fav) D Nicholson 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

KISSAIR best effort beat disqualified Dr Leunt 2½l in 26-runner grade I Daily Express Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, soft) with SHOOFK (13lb better off) 19l 9th. KADASTROF best effort last season 9½l 6th of 17 to Anusha in grade I Ladbroke hurdle at Leopardstown (2m, yield). MYSILV beat Hi Handsome 7l in 4-runner hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to firm) with SHOOFK (5lb better off) 20l 3rd. PRIDWELL head 2nd of 7 to Home Counties in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good). STRAWBERRY ANGEL 7l 3rd of 4 to Chief's Song in hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). CHIAPPUCCI head 2nd of 9 to Tina's Charm in conditional jockeys' selling handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, firm). BRITANNIA MILLS 7¾l 3rd of 6 to Viceroy Ruler in handicap hurdle at Fakenham (2m 4f, good).

Selection: MYSILV

ASCOT COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S Dow, 5 winners from 12 runners, 41.7%; D Nicholson, 11 from 44, 25.0%; O Sherwood, 13 from 54, 24.1%; R Hodges, 4 from 18, 22.2%; M Pipe, 15 from 68, 22.1%; R Alner, 3 from 14, 21.4%; K Bailey, 8 from 40, 20.0%; S Sherwood, 3 from 15, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: J Osborne, 30 winners from 103 rides, 29.1%; A P McCoy, 7 from 26, 26.9%; S McNeill, 7 from 35, 20.0%; M A Fitzgerald, 13 from 67, 19.4%; A Maguire, 14 from 74, 18.9%; C Llewellyn, 8 from 45, 17.8%; R Dunwoody, 16 from 102, 15.7%; P Holley, 5 from 39, 12.8%.

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Ice display lacks edge of danger

New tune but old harmony from Torvill and Dean

Simon Barnes watches former Olympians delight skating's devotees in the more relaxed atmosphere of a professional show

And so, with the epic surprise that greets such events as the sun rising in the east, people buying presents in Oxford Street and Sherlock Holmes solving a case, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won something called the NutraSweet Challenge of Champions at the London Arena on Thursday night.

True, they failed to get any perfect sixes. But they got an awful lot of perfect tens instead: they mark out of ten in professional competition. Perfection was granted to a routine that involved a stumbling little clash of skates and choreography that showed a few rough edges as they skated to the Paul Simon song, *Bridge Over Troubled Water*.

But what the hell? It was lovely to see them. It is always lovely to watch good skating, and lovely to watch it for real rather than on television, when the speed and the long lines of grace and the little edge of danger can be properly understood.

Actually, the night's best performance came from the Japanese, Yuka Sato, for all four disciplines were represented at the meeting. In skating, the solo women tend to be either small and irritatingly skilful, or taller and more graceful. Sato is small and graceful, and was generally divine and devastating or whatever sporting term you wish to apply.

Afterwards, she said that winning the world championship as an amateur (she did it twice) was infinitely harder than competitions like this. It was nice to have a little frankness. In most sports, the step up from amateur to professional is the hard one: into professional boxing, from rugby union to rugby league: from Olympic cycling to the Tour de France.

But, in skating, it is the other way round. A tough but succesful "amateur" career wins you a place in what my colleague, Srikumar Sen, calls "a retired-admirals' smoking-room of sport". If you watch a big "amateur" competition all the way through, instead of the televised highlights, you see an awful lot of people fall down.

This is because they are obliged to pitch their routines on the cusp of the possible. Falls are inevitable: and the sporting nature of skating is made crystal clear.

But here, there is no requirement for difficulty. Thus we had Katarina Witt and Robin Cousins, both past it in terms of "amateur" competition, both skating delightful routines.

Witt glided about the ice looking lovely, something she has always been rather good at, melting once again the hearts of all true Kati devotees: the slaying of the slain, in my own case. And Cousins, now 38 but a real portrait-in-the-attic job, had his last ever competitive skate. He, too, glided about looking lovely: all elegant, slinky moves with his patented back-flip thrown in to milk the whoops.

Each competitor and pair skated a competition piece and got marked, and then skated an exhibition piece and didn't. That was the difference. Well, in the first half, there was a *little* bit more emphasis on judge-pleasing "elements", but basically, it was all just skating.

The marks were like the bit of cress you get with your pub sandwich: a garnish. But there is apparently decent prize-money: a fund of £202,000, first place in each competition gets £25,000, second £13,000, and so on. But, for a competition, it was seriously short of competitiveness.

I always push the garnish to one side, myself, so I just sat back and enjoyed the skating. The business was skating: the marks were just camping about.

And so, in the second half, a delightfully sexy cross-dressing routine from Maia Usova and Alexander Zhulin, and, to close the show — for show it was — T and D, who else?, with Dean skating hilariously as an impassioned nerd. Ah well. We're all impassioned nerds, or we wouldn't be here, I thought, as I left for the Docklands Light Railway.

Torvill stays relaxed about being swept off her feet

JULIAN HERBERT

Rob Hoekstra applies a steadying hand to Tresor de Renom as they take a fence during the Holly Accumulator event at the Olympia Christmas Show

Beerbaum's faith justified

By Jenny MacArthur

LUDGER BEERBAUM, of Germany, the Olympic show jumping champion, introduced his temperamental new grand prix horse, Avion, to Olympia yesterday and was rewarded with a comfortable win in the Christmas Stocking Stakes, the main event of the afternoon.

Avion, an inexperienced nine-year-old, was bought in May in northern Germany but started competing internationally only in October, after over-reaching badly while being exercised on a horse walker. Beerbaum, 32, had had his eye on the grey holsteiner for some time. "I knew he was a bit wild and unschooled and that he loved to bite and buck around, but I also knew he could jump," he said.

Going third from last, Beerbaum had plenty of time to see how the course was jumping. Cayetano Martinez de Irujo, of Spain, had taken the early lead on Elegast, but his time was put in perspective by Michael Whitaker, of Great Britain, and Everest My Messieur, winners on the opening day, who finished five seconds faster, but incurred four faults.

Beerbaum, who was the leading money-winner at the show last year, seized his chance. Taking the same shortcut as Whitaker into fence nine, he gave an effortless display of jumping to finish two seconds ahead of the Spaniard.

William Funnell and Comex took third place for the second time in as many days. A similar position in the Volvo World Cup qualifier today would give Funnell valuable points towards the World Cup final next April.

Hugo Simon confirmed himself as one of the favourites for the qualifier after winning the main event on Thursday night on Apricot D. Simon, who is competing in Britain for the first time for ten years, won the opening event on his home-bred horse, Cash, and then went on to relegate Beerbaum, on Sprehe It's Me, to second place in the Christmas Turkey Stakes after a thrilling 11-horse jump-off.

RESULTS: Christmas Turkey Stakes: 1, Apricot D (H Simon, Austria) 0 in 29.57; 2, Sprehe It's Me (L Beerbaum, Ger) 0, 31.25; 3, Comex (W Funnell, GB) 0, 33.77. The Holly Accumulator: 1, Sarcelle de Sesse (H Godignon, Fr) 36pts 37.23 sec; 2, Rainbow de Trelon (H Bourdy, Fr) 36 37.44; 3, Athos du Masou (R-Y Bost, Fr) 36 38.69. Christmas Stocking Stakes: 1, Avion (L Beerbaum, Ger) clear 49.10sec; 2, Elegast (C Martinez, Sp) clear 51.13; 3, Comex (W Funnell, GB) clear 53.04.

☐ Alison Bradley, who helped Britain to win the team silver medal at the European championships this year on the stallion Endeavour, was presented with the British Equestrian Writers' Association's trophy for the equestrian personality of the year.

Hussain's brilliant century bolsters England A

NASSER HUSSAIN struck a brilliant century yesterday as the England A team maintained their unbeaten record on their tour of Pakistan by winning the first one-day international in Peshawar by one run.

Hussain, continuing his good form on the tour, strengthened his claims to a place with the senior team in South Africa, should a replacement for John Crawley be needed. He put on 81 in the last ten overs of the England A innings with Craig White, the Yorkshire all-rounder, and hit eight fours in all.

Despite Hussain's efforts, Pakistan A appeared to have victory well within their sights as they pursued 226 to win. Needing only 15 runs from their last three overs with wickets in hand, they were thwarted by tigerish England bowling and fielding at the death.

Pakistan A were left wanting five for victory from the last over, bowled by White. With three runs wanted from two balls, White produced a perfect yorker which Shahid Anwar did well to dig out. The last ball was cut to Hussain at point and the single allowed Shahid to complete his century, but it was England A who were celebrating their sixth victory in nine tour games.

ENGLAND A	
N V Knight c Akram b Salman	35
J E R Gallian b Kabir	4
*N Hussain not out	100
D P Ostler c Shakeel b Azhar	4
J C Pooley c and b Akram	27
R C Irani c Shakeel b Salman	1
C White not out	39
Extras (b 2, lb 4, w 6, nb 3)	15
Total (5 wkts, 40 overs)	225

†K J Piper, S D Udal, D W Headley and T A Munton did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-90, 3-101, 4-141, 5-144.

BOWLING: Kabir 8-0-52-1, Gohar 8-1-43-0, Azhar 8-0-27-1, Akram 8-0-51-1, Salman 8-0-46-2.

PAKISTAN A	
†Shakeel Ahmed lbw b Munton	21
Shahid Anwar not out	100
Saeed Azad c Hussain b Irani	18
*Asif Mujtaba c Hussain b Irani	22
Zahid Fazal c Pooley b Gallian	18
Mahmood Hamid lbw b Gallian	0
Azhar Mahmood run out	15
Akram Raza not out	5
Extras (lb 12, w 10, nb 3)	25
Total (6 wkts, 40 overs)	224

Ali Gohar, Kabir Khan and Salman Fazal did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-54, 2-113, 3-157, 4-181, 5-182, 6-217.

BOWLING: Headley 8-0-37-0, Munton 8-0-36-1, White 6-0-30-0, Udal 5-0-29-0, Irani 8-0-53-2, Gallian 5-0-27-2.

Umpires: Feroz Butt and Nazir Junior

☐ Sri Lanka have maintained their innocence and are seeking a public apology after being found guilty of ball-tampering during the first Test match against Australia in Perth last week.

☐ Waqar Younis took three wickets in nine balls as Pakistan beat New Zealand in a low-scoring one-day international in Dunedin yesterday. Requiring 190 to win, the home side were dismissed for 169.

Scoreboard, page 43

IN BRIEF

Graf misses Australian Open with foot injury

STEFFI GRAF, the world's No 1 women's tennis player, will be unable to compete in the Australian Open next month after undergoing an operation for a chipped bone in her left foot yesterday.

"The patient wants enough time to carry through the rehabilitation programme without suffering further physical complaints," Hartmut Krahl, of the Alfred Krupp hospital in Essen, said. Graf, 26, who has won the Australian Open four times, had a similar operation on her right foot two years ago.

Seizinger strikes

Sking: Katja Seizinger won her first World Cup downhill race for 21 months at St Anton, Austria, yesterday, and so ended the run of six consecutive victories by Picabo Street, of the United States.

The Olympic champion, from Germany, collected her eighteenth victory in the World Cup with a time of 2min 6.68sec, beating Heidi Zurbriggen, of Switzerland.

Power and glory

Rowing: A clash of dates saw both Oxford and Cambridge University women holding their boat-race trials at Henley yesterday. For the Dark Blues, Power beat Arrogance by 1½ lengths, in 7min 25sec. Cambridge, who rowed a shorter course, saw their A crew finish in 6min 39sec, eight seconds ahead of the reserve boat.

India triumph

Cricket: India's women eased to a seven-wicket victory over England in the deciding one-day international in Madras, sealing the series 3-2. England have already won the Test series.

Scots stride on

Curling: Scotland's women beat Denmark, the title-holders, 8-4 to join their male counterparts in the semi-finals of the European curling championships at Grindelwald, Switzerland.

Cardiff final

Rugby union: Cardiff Arms Park is to be the stage for the final of the inaugural Heineken Cup on January 7.

Grands prix

Motor racing: Due to an error in the agency report, dates of next year's grands prix were incorrectly published yesterday. The Monaco and Spanish grands prix were transposed. Correct dates are: **May 19:** Monaco (Monte Carlo). **June 2:** Spanish (Barcelona).

Dorans Pride improves

HOPES rose yesterday for Dorans Pride, winner of last season's Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham, who is fighting for life after an attack of colic (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

Dorans Pride was operated on twice on Thursday and yesterday his trainer, Michael Hourigan, was more hopeful about the gelding's prospects. He said: "He had a good night and there is more cause for hope now, but we won't know for sure until he comes off medication." Even if Dorans Pride recovers, it will be at least a year before there is a possibility of him returning to racing.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Catterick Bridge

Going: good, good to firm in places

12.50 (2m 3f hdle) 1, Old Habits (Miss P Robson, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Gone Away (16-1); 3, Able Player (11-2). Highland Park 3-1 jt-fav. 12 ran. NR: Roscommon Joe. 9l, 3½l. J Eyre. Tote: £3.70; £1.40, £3.20, £1.30. DF: £30.60. Trio: £26.50. CSF: £48.77. Tricast: £241.85.

1.20 (2m ch) 1, Lord Dorcet (B Storey, 5-2 fav); 2, Old Ale (20-1); 3, Mnemeenies (50-1). 12 ran. NR: Salmon Dist. nk. J Charlton. Tote: £2.90; £2.00, £7.80, £5.30. DF: £114.40. Trio: £133.20. CSF: £48.58.

1.50 (2m 3f hdle) 1, Joyrider (R Guest, 4-6 fav); 2, Fryup Satellite (9-2); 3, Whitegatesprincess (25-1). 7 ran. Sh hd, 13l. Miss M Milligan. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £2.00. DF: £4.40. CSF: £4.47. No bid.

2.20 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Forbidden Time (T Reed, 1-4 fav); 2, Farmer's Hand (50-1); 3, Shull Saor (8-1). 5 ran. NR: Shutan. 4l, 3½l. L Lungo. Tote: £1.80; £1.00, £12.80. DF: £20.10. CSF: £10.28.

2.50 (2m hdle) 1, Tanseeq (D Byrne, 20-1); 2, In A Moment (9-2); 3, Little Tincture (20-1). Kilnamartyra Girl 5-2 fav. 13 ran. NR: Erny. 1l, 1¼l. M Meagher. Tote: £22.20; £4.60, £2.40, £3.30. DF: £100.20. Trio: £137.70 (part won; pool of £159.05 carried forward to 1.40 at Haydock today). CSF: £108.66. Tricast: £1,719.92.

3.20 (2m 3f ch) 1, Judicial Field (M Dwyer, 13-8 jt-fav); 2, Sheilas Hillcrest (13-8 jt-fav); 3, River Red (7-2). 4 ran. 2l, 25l. N Tinkler. Tote: £2.50. DF: £2.00. CSF: £4.24.

Placepot: £377.60. Quadpot: not won (pool of £84.12 carried forward to Haydock today).

Hereford

Going: good

12.40 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Crack On (G McCourt, 5-4 fav); 2, Whattabob (2-1); 3, Porter's Bay (4-1). 13 ran. NR: Dancing Barefoot, Faraday, Pacific Power. 1½l, 20l. P Hobbs. Tote: £2.30; £1.60, £1.10, £2.70. DF: £2.10. Trio: £2.50. CSF: £5.10.

1.10 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Ebullient Equiname (M A Fitzgerald, 10-11 fav); 2, Avanti Express (9-2); 3, Blaze Of Oak (8-1). 16 ran. 6l, 1½l. N Henderson. Tote: £1.60; £1.30, £2.70, £1.90. DF: £4.50. Trio: £13.50. CSF: £6.82.

1.40 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Hightown Cavalier (J Harris, 7-2 fav); 2, Hullo Mary Doll (9-2); 3, Izacomin (8-1). 13 ran. 9l, 12l. R Hodges. Tote: £3.10; £3.10, £1.60, £3.80. DF: £18.50. Trio: £58.00. CSF: £20.61. Tricast: £125.14.

2.10 (2m ch) 1, Dawn Chance (A Tory, 12-1); 2, Ficho (16-1); 3, Mr President (11-2). First Century 9-4 fav (f). 8 ran. 6l, dist. R Hodges. Tote: £10.50; £1.40, £2.30, £2.10. DF: £35.60. CSF: £148.05. Tricast: £1,084.30.

2.40 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Erlking (N Mann, 10-1); 2, Eulogy (9-2); 3, Tony's Mist (4-1 fav). 16 ran. 9l, 6l. S Mellor. Tote: £16.50; £4.80, £2.50, £2.20. DF: £23.00. Trio: £25.60. CSF: £53.43. No bid.

3.10 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Church Law (R Supple, 7-2. Richard Evans's nap); 2, Arctic Red (12-1); 3, Big Arthur (7-1). Price's Hill 85-40 fav. 15 ran. NR: Wally's Dream. 11l, 20l. Mrs L Taylor. Tote: £5.10; £2.30, £2.00, £3.10. DF: £28.60. Trio: £71.00. CSF: £50.25.

3.40 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Corrin Hill (T Dascombe, 5-1, Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Hawaiian Sam (7-2); 3, Ho-Joe (5-1). Windward Ariom 3-1 fav. 9 ran. 6l, 1½l. R Hodges. Tote: £8.50; £2.80, £1.20, £1.10. DF: £18.10. Trio: £38.90. CSF: £23.79. Tricast: £88.18.

Jackpot: £34,047.40.

Placepot: £78.80. Quadpot: not won; (pool of £80.21 carried forward to Haydock today).

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.30 (1m) 1, Spencer's Revenge (G Bardwell, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Second Colours (4-1); 3, Masnun (3-1 jt-fav). 12 ran. Hd, ¾l. M Ryan. Tote: £2.70; £1.90, £1.30, £1.90. DF: £9.10. Trio: £9.10. CSF: £16.07.

1.00 (1m 2f) 1, Almuhtaram (Mr M Armytage, 9-2); 2, Tribal Peace (11-1); 3, Owdbetts (9-1). Retender 100-30 fav. 13 ran. NR: Mentalasanythin. 1¾l, 1l. Miss G Kelleway. Tote: £6.20; £3.40, £7.30, £5.00. DF: £49.10. Trio: £130.10 (part won; pool of £182.00 carried forward to 1.40 at Haydock today). CSF: £64.29. Tricast: £411.02.

1.30 (1m) 1, Mr Nevermind (S Whitworth, 4-5 fav); 2, Sweet Supposin (5-1); 3, Dancing Heart (8-1). 12 ran. 2½l, 5l. G L Moore. Tote: £1.80; £1.40, £1.10, £3.50. DF: £3.60. Trio: £5.90. CSF: £5.49.

2.00 (1m) 1, Arctic Romancer (S Whitworth, 4-1); 2, Six Clerks (8-1); 3, Blue Flyer (13-2). Homeland 7-4 fav. 8 ran. 2l, 3l. G Lewis. Tote: £5.10; £2.00, £2.70, £2.10. DF: £46.70. CSF: £35.70. Tricast: £194.69.

2.30 (7f) 1, Accountancy Jewel (D Wright, 7-1); 2, Farmost (14-1); 3, Tahya (20-1). Green Gem 2-1 fav. 9 ran. 1l, 7l. K McAuliffe. Tote: £18.00; £2.00, £2.00, £16.40. DF: £22.60. Trio: £189.20 (part won; pool of £194.60 carried forward to 1.40 at Haydock today). CSF: £91.79.

3.00 (2m) 1, Anjou (G Bardwell, 20-1); 2, Ikhtiraa (10-1); 3, Chez Catalan (3-1 fav). 14 ran. 3½l, ¾l. J Pearce. Tote: £27.30; £8.60, £2.40. DF: £58.80. Trio: £216.60. CSF: £200.69. Tricast: £705.84.

3.30 (7f) 1, Four Of Spades (Amanda Sanders, 6-1); 2, Quinzii Martin (33-1); 3, Field Of Vision (9-1). Crystal Heights 7-4 fav. 13 ran. Sh hd, 1½l. P Evans. Tote: £6.60; £1.50, £5.30, £2.30. DF: £83.90. Trio: £62.60. CSF: £161.58. Tricast: £1,630.64.

Placepot: £679.60. Quadpot: not won (pool of £171.20 carried forward to Haydock today).

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

12.25 Highland View. 12.55 Morning In May. 1.25 Livio. 1.55 Mils Mij. 2.25 Chummy's Saga. 2.55 Twin States. 3.25 Brandy Cross.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

12.25 PICTON NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,618: 2m 3f) (14 runners)

1 14-6 BRANCHER 7 (F) J Norton 4-10-12 W Fry
2 0 CASTLE RED 40 J Wade 4-10-12 K Jones
3 2424 CLASSIC CREST 21 (V) G Moore 4-10-12 J Callaghan
4 0- DEEP FAIR 414 Mrs S Smith 8-10-12 R Wilkinson (7)
5 6 EMPEROR'S MAGIC 24 N Mason 4-10-12 S Haworth (7)
6 HIGHLAND VIEW J Howard Johnson 5-10-12 T J Murphy (3)
7 0-23 LEGAL LORD 26 M Hammond 5-10-12 R Burns (7)
8 0-60 MAUBEE 55 E Weymes 4-10-12 D Bentley
9 35/ RADICAL CHOICE 562 J Charlton 6-10-12 B Storey
10 /34- VARYKINOV 348 M W Easterby 6-10-12 J Driscoll
11 P-02 WHATDIDYOUSAY 10 B Boothfield 7-10-12 G Lee (3)
12 F- AIRE VALLEY 199 Mrs S Smith 6-10-7 L Donnelly (7)
13 CRUISING KATE S Kettlewell 7-10-7 A S Smith
14 23F- DEAR EMILY 222P J Swiers 7-10-7 Mr S Swiers

3-1 Classic Crest, 4-1 Legal Lord, 9-2 Whatdidyousay, 6-1 Varykinov, 7-1 Highland View, 8-1 Emperor's Magic, Brancher, 20-1 others.

12.55 ST PAULS MAIDEN CHASE (£2,581: 2m 3f) (10)

1 PP20 CROFTON LAKE 24 J Dixon 7-11-5 Mr R Hale
2 /3-F DARK MIDNIGHT 28 D Lamb 6-11-5 A Manners (7)
3 P0P- DERWENT LAD 232 M Barnes 6-11-5 D Parker (3)
4 -654 FULL SHILLING 11 (V) K Burke 6-11-5 A Lamach (3)
5 2F2/ GREENFIELD MANOR 610 J Wade 8-11-5 K Jones
6 /P-0 LUCKER 18 D Eddy 8-11-5 J Callaghan
7 PP/0 LUGER 26 W Cunningham 7-11-5 R Marley
8 6-55 MORNING IN MAY 10 J Howard Johnson 7-11-5 T J Murphy (3)
9 P-80 NETHERBY SAID 18 B Wilkinson 5-11-5 D Bentley
10 -420 EMERALD CHARM 19 J Charlton 7-11-0 B Storey

11-4 Morning In May, 7-2 Full Shilling, 4-1 Greenfield Manor, 9-2 Crofton Lake, 6-1 Emerald Charm, 8-1 Netherby Said, 16-1 Dark Midnight, 25-1 others.

1.25 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,461: 3m 1f 110yd) (14)

1 40-P MARCHWOOD 21 (G,S) N Chamberlain 8-11-10 Miss C Metcalfe (7)
2 423- TWIN FALLS 203 (C,S) G Moore 4-11-9 T Hogg (7)
3 61-2 FUNETTO 21 (F) M Hammond 5-11-9 R Burns (7)
4 -360 LIVIO 7 (G,S) L Lungo 4-11-7 F Perratt (3)
5 3-3F TROODOS 10 (CD,F,G) Mrs S Austin 9-11-5 D Wilkinson
6 2-38 MONARU 40 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-4 G Lee (3)
7 0-24 NODFORM WONDER 21 (F,G,S) D Eddy 8-11-3 J Callaghan
8 0-F0 CARNETTO 19 (G,S) R Brewis 8-11-3 G Harker
9 4143 GEORGE ASHFORD 14 (F) K Morgan 5-11-2 A S Smith
10 3024 ANDRELOT 23 (B,F,G) P Bowen 8-11-2 D Walsh (5)
11 P0-P HUDSON BAY TRADER 17 (G,S) Mrs S Austin 8-11-0 R Marley
12 4-3P DOMINIE 16 (BF,G,S) K Bailey 7-10-11 T J Murphy (3)
13 56-6 HABAR 191 (G) J Charlton 6-10-2 B Storey
14 35F/ COMING ALIVE 856 (F) N Mason 8-10-1 S Haworth (7)

7-2 Funetto, 5-1 George Ashford, 11-2 Nodform Wonder, 6-1 Twin Falls, Troodos, 7-1 Dominie, 8-1 Andrelot, 12-1 others.

1.55 ST PETERS HANDICAP CHASE (£3,493: 2m) (5)

1 525- JUST FRANKIE 330 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 11-11-11 G Lee (3)
2 1P03 MILS MIJ 23 (D,F,G,S) T Cuthbert 10-11-9 J Callaghan
3 5-11 STRONG APPROACH 23 (C,D,F,G,S) J Charlton 10-11-5 B Storey
4 2112 NEWHALL PRINCE 11 (D,BF,F,G) A Streeter 7-10-1 A S Smith
5 -233 CIRCULATION 7 (D,G,S) D McCain 9-10-0 D Walsh (5)

13-8 Newhall Prince, 9-4 Strong Approach, 5-2 Mils Mij, 7-1 Just Frankie, 20-1 Circulation.

2.25 AMPLEFORTH HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,140: 2m) (8)

1 -445 INGLETONIAN 23 (CD,S) B Wilkinson 6-11-11 D Bentley
2 -530 AIDE MEMOIRE 35 (S) Mrs B Broad 6-11-8 A S Smith
3 40-0 STATELY HOME 17 P Bowen 4-11-2 D Walsh (5)
4 1-P CHUMMY'S SAGA 35 (F) L Lungo 5-11-2 F Perratt (3)
5 3253 KEEP BATTLING 12 (D,G) J Goldie 5-11-1 G Lee (3)
6 15/4 MASTER OF THE HOUSE 22 (D,BF,G) M Hammond 9-10-10 R Burns (7)
7 P5-5 STRICTLY PERSONAL 40 M Barnes 5-10-8 D Parker (3)
8 -356 MARCO MAGNIFICO 37 T Dyer 5-10-0 J Callaghan

7-4 Keep Battling, 5-2 Master Of The House, 5-1 Chummy's Saga, 6-1 Ingletonian, 10-1 Aide Memoire, Marco Magnifico, 14-1 others.

2.55 GILLING HANDICAP CHASE (£2,832: 3m 1f 110yd) (8)

1 1110 IFFEEE 21 (F,S) P Bowen 8-12-0 D Walsh (5)
2 -431 TWIN STATES 17 (CD,F,G,S) J Turner 6-11-12 W Fry
3 31U0 ADRIEN 14 (B,F,S) Mrs S Bramall 7-11-10 Mr K Whelan (5)
4 1F5- MULLINGAR 211 (F) J Charlton 6-11-9 B Storey
5 -F13 JOE WHITE 10 (BF,F,G) J Howard Johnson 9-11-5 T J Murphy (3)
6 4241 RUSSIAN CASTLE 10 (G) J Wade 6-10-5 K Jones
7 FP-3 GERRYMANDER 26 M Hammond 9-10-2 D Bentley
8 -3F4 LAURIE-O 43 (F,G,S) D Lamb 11-10-0 A Manners (7)

9-4 Twin States, 3-1 Joe White, 4-1 Russian Castle, 5-1 Iffeee, 8-1 Gerrymander, 10-1 Adrien, 14-1 others.

3.25 CATTERICK INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,182: 2m) (13)

1 2/ BALHERNOCH 978 M H Easterby 6-11-4 G Lee (3)
2 BRANDY CROSS J Howard Johnson 6-11-4 T J Murphy (3)
3 CELTIC MILE A Thomson 5-11-4 Mr S Swiers
4 CHINA KING J Fitzgerald 4-11-4 E Callaghan (7)
5 3 CONDIHAME 51 M Wane 5-11-4 D J Kavanagh (5)
6 4-3 HIGHLAND SPIN 35 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-4 M Herrington (7)
7 00- MR ORIENTAL 259 Mrs V Aconley 5-11-4 P Gould (7)
8 RADICAL REFORM N Mason 6-11-4 S Haworth (7)
9 RULE OUT THE REST T Tate 4-11-4 Mr W Burnell (7)
10 00P- CLOVER GIRL 259 B Ellison 4-10-13 S Taylor (7)
11 MILLERS GOLDENGIRL Mrs S Smith 4-10-13 L Donnelly (7)
12 ON THE MOVE J Turner 4-10-13 W Fry
13 0- SILVER PENNY 372 N Chamberlain 5-10-13 Miss C Metcalfe (7)

3-1 Highland Spin, 9-2 Brandy Cross, 5-1 Condihame, 6-1 Balhernoch, 7-1 China King, 8-1 Rule Out The Rest, 10-1 On The Move, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

CATTERICK: Trainers: K Morgan, 11 winners from 35 runners, 31.4%; L Lungo, 8 from 33, 24.2%; Mrs M Reveley, 22 from 99, 22.2%; J Fitzgerald, 13 from 60, 21.7%; M H Easterby, 11 from 76, 14.5%; Mrs V Aconley, 5 from 36, 13.9%. Jockeys: A S Smith, 12 winners from 36 rides, 33.3%; D Wilkinson, 4 from 34, 11.8%; W Fry, 3 from 27, 11.1%. Only qualifiers.

UTTOXETER: Trainers: D Sherwood, 16 winners from 53 runners, 30.2%; M Pipe, 43 from 144, 29.9%; S Brookshaw, 5 from 17, 29.4%; K Bailey, 24 from 86, 27.9%; R Alner, 3 from 12, 25.0%; J J O'Neill, 6 from 25, 24.0%. Jockeys: G Tormey, 8 winners from 20 rides, 40.0%; B Powell, 6 from 37, 16.2%; J Railton, 8 from 53, 15.1%; D Byrne, 3 from 21, 14.3%; R Supple, 9 from 65, 13.8%; T Eley, 14 from 121, 11.6%.

Racing next week

MONDAY: Edinburgh (first race, 12.15), Lingfield Park (AW, 12.30).
TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 12.30), Southwell (12.45)
WEDNESDAY: Hexham (12.30), Ludlow (12.45)
THURSDAY: Kelso (12.50), Lingfield Park (12.30), Uttoxeter (12.40).

Flat meetings in bold

☐ Dope tests on Dancing Dove, second to Chadwick's Ginger at Carlisle on October 6, and High Five, tailed-off last behind Unchanged at Folkestone on September 7, have proved positive.

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER

12.00 Mt Rundle. 12.30 Honey Bun. 1.00 Jacob's Wife. 1.30 Romalito. 2.05 Rivage Bleu. 2.35 Mizyan. 3.05 Sparrow Hall. 3.35 Potter's Gale.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 12.00 Lixos. 2.35 Mizyan.

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.00 TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL PAST PUPILS NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,344: 2m) (16 runners)

1 2-P1 WREN WARBLER 19 (D,S) Mrs P Robeson 5-11-2 M Richards
2 -044 BACKGAMMON 25 J Old 4-11-0 G Upton
3 30-0 EL RUBIO 11 J Spearing 4-11-0 B Powell
4 0-PU HARLEQUIN BAY 17 J Tuck 5-11-0 I Lawrence
5 LAKE NONA 556F Miss H Knight 4-11-0 G F Ryan (5)
6 6- LIXOS 380 J Banks 4-11-0 S Keightley
7 00- MACS HERO 285 C Smith 5-11-0 M Ranger
8 3 MT RUNDLE 9 K Bailey 6-11-0 J Railton
9 PF- NETHERCOTE LAD 434 M Wilkinson 5-11-0 R Supple
10 0 PYRRHIC VICTORY 14 R Stronge 4-11-0 S Lyons (3)
11 66P- RELAXED LAD 225 J Peacock 6-11-0 R Bellamy
12 P-22 RIVAL BID 21 Mrs N Macauley 7-11-0 R Johnson (3)
13 PP STRONG GLEN 14 P Wegmann 7-11-0 S Fowler (7)
14 WAKING 84F J Fitzgerald 4-11-0 D Byrne
15 MEANT TO BE 71F Lady Herries 5-10-9 E Murphy
16 1/0F NAHLA 14 (BF,S) Miss J Doyle 5-10-9 S Curran (3)

7-2 Meant To Be, 4-1 Backgammon, 5-1 Wren Warbler, 6-1 Rival Bid, 7-1 Mt Rundle, 8-1 Lake Nona, 10-1 Nahla, 12-1 others.

12.30 TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL PAST PUPILS NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,334: 2m) (16)

1 BARONCELLI M Wilkinson 5-11-0 R Supple
2 P COME ON RISK ME 14 D McCain 4-11-0 D McCain
3 ERHARISTO 793F J White 6-11-0 W McFarland
4 0-5 ELA MAN HOWA 7 N Tinkler 4-11-0 E Husband (3)
5 0-05 EL CORDOBES 22 W Jenks 4-11-0 T Jenks
6 LAWFUL LOVE 66F T Donnelly 5-11-0 G Hogan (3)
7 00 LEAP IN THE DARK 18 Miss L Siddall 6-11-0 M Richards
8 SERIOUS 49F Lady Herries 5-11-0 E Murphy
9 40 SHAHIK 21 J O'Shea 5-11-0 B Fenton (5)
10 00 SOMMERSBY 8 Mrs N Macauley 4-11-0 J Railton
11 5 TROUVAILLE 21 A Turnell 4-11-0 L Harvey
12 00 WEEHEBY 18 M Barraclough 6-11-0 G Tormey (3)
13 HONEY BUN 625F M Pipe 4-10-9 J Lower
14 00 JEMIMA PUDDLEDUCK 7 A Streeter 4-10-9 W Humphreys
15 2F30 MOONLIGHT AIR 23 J Spearing 4-10-9 R Johnson (3)
16 -3U2 SWISS MOUNTAIN 23 P Bevan 5-10-9 B Powell

3-1 Honey Bun, 7-2 Serious, 5-1 Trouvaille, 6-1 Moonlight Air, 7-1 Erharisto, 8-1 Ela Man Howa, 10-1 Swiss Mountain, 12-1 others.

1.00 EVANS HALSHAW NOVICES CHASE (£3,599: 2m) (4)

1 10-3 BARTON SANTA 43 (S) S Brookshaw 6-11-0 J Railton
2 51-0 HIGH LOW 24 (F,S) W Jenks 7-11-0 T Jenks
3 14-3 JACOB'S WIFE 24 (G) P Webber 5-10-9 R Bellamy
4 54-6 SENSE OF VALUE 12 (F,S) J Smith 6-10-9 R Johnson (3)

4-6 Jacob's Wife, 3-1 High Low, 6-1 Barton Santa, 7-1 Sense Of Value.

1.30 MANNY BERNSTEIN BOOKMAKERS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,278: 3m 110yd) (16)

1 P5F3 NOW WE KNOW 14 (G,S) M Sheppard 7-11-12 B Powell
2 0-51 NUPDOWN BOY 28 (D,F) N Chance 6-11-10 R Johnson (3)
3 0-1P BORRISMORE FLASH 18 (D,F) J Bradley 7-11-8 R Farrant
4 -242 ROMALITO 38 M Stanstard 5-11-5 M Richards
5 BF-6 FOX ON THE RUN 22 (B) A Turnell 8-10-13 J Railton
6 00-2 MEGAMUNCH 24 R Juckes 7-10-12 G Tormey (3)
7 0-P0 ROSIE-B 12 R Stronge 5-10-11 R Stronge
8 0P35 ST KITTS 12 W G M Turner 4-10-9 I Lawrence
9 5-1P GOLDEN NUGGET 49 (BF,F,S) E Alston 8-10-7 A Procter (3)
10 2-50 MISS FERN 50 (F,G,S) R Dickin 10-10-6 Philip Hughes (7)
11 00P- GENTLEMAN SID 120F P Murphy 5-10-4 E Murphy
12 0-04 JIMMY'S FANCY 34 Mrs S Williams 7-10-3 A Tory
13 53P4 MICK THE YANK 22 (B) M Heaton-Ellis 5-10-3 B Fenton (5)
14 -655 DON TOCINO 29 J White 5-10-2 W McFarland
15 40-3 PURBECK POLLY 72 R Alner 5-10-0 P Carey (5)
16 0-60 RED LIGHTER 14 J Old 6-10-0 G Upton

9-2 Nupdown Boy, 5-1 Romalito, 6-1 Now We Know, 7-1 Borrismore Flash, 8-1 St Kitts, 10-1 Megamunch, Mick The Yank, 12-1 others.

2.05 HEATHYARDS ENGINEERING NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,660: 2m 5f) (11)

1 2521 LORD GYLLENE S Brookshaw 7-12-0 J Railton
2 /5F JARRWAH 8 (G) J Spearing 7-11-12 R Johnson (3)
3 06-P HANGOVER 9 (G,S) R Lee 9-11-1 G Hogan (3)
4 23U3 EAST HOUSTON 40 (B) J J O'Neill 6-11-1 A Roche (3)
5 -F53 FLAPJACK LAD 11 (S) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-0 T Jenks
6 4-PU FOX CHAPEL 2 (G,S) R Juckes 8-11-0 G Tormey (3)
7 -5P2 PRIZE MATCH 9 (S) J Tuck 6-10-13 I Lawrence
8 /2-F GARRISON COMMANDER 30 (BF) A Turnell 6-10-11 B Powell
9 4-21 RIVAGE BLEU 25 (G) J King 8-10-6 G Upton
10 P-6P DORKING RANGER 11 Miss H Knight 10-10-0 R Farrant
11 3344 ON THE TEAR 22 (B) F Lloyd 9-10-0 Gary Lyons

11-4 Rivage Bleu, 7-2 Lord Gyllene, 4-1 Garrison Commander, 6-1 Flapjack Lad, 7-1 Prize Match, 8-1 Jarrwah, 10-1 Hangover, 14-1 others.

2.35 HOUGHTON VAUGHAN HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,175: 2m 4f 110yd) (8)

1 1-U4 BAYROUGE 37 (BF,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-12-0 G Cahill (7)
2 31P- MIZYAN 198F (D,G) J Banks 7-11-3 S Keightley
3 2232 TEEN JAY 31 (F,G,S) R Stronge 5-10-12 R Stronge
4 -630 GOLDEN ARROW 14 (F,S) I Balding 4-10-11 B Powell
5 14-6 JEASSU 182 (CD,F,G,S) A J Wilson 12-10-9 T Jenks
6 -114 NAHRI 22 (G,S) J Mackie 4-10-0 T Eley
7 /4U- HEARTS ARE WILD 238 (F,G) T Forster 8-10-0 S Wynne
8 020- STAR MOVER 255 (C,G,S) C Smith 6-10-0 B Clarke (7)

9-4 Golden Arrow, 3-1 Nahri, 9-2 Bayrouge, 5-1 Teen Jay, 7-1 Jeassu, 8-1 Mizyan, 16-1 others.

3.05 MIDROADS HANDICAP CHASE (£3,534: 3m 2f) (8)

1 -U62 VELEDA II 21 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Bramall 8-11-13 J Burke
2 F3P- BOLL WEEVIL 234 (C,G,S) O Sherwood 9-11-11 M Richards
3 3-2U STRONG SOUND 14 (F,G,S) P Cheesbrough 8-11-10 R Supple
4 P-PF MATT REID 9 (G,S) J Leigh 11-11-9 B Powell
5 F1F- SPARROW HALL 229 (F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 8-10-9 D Byrne
6 55-3 MWEENISH 10 (CD,G,S) P Webber 13-10-7 R Bellamy
7 26-4 MO ICHI DO 23 (C,F,G,S) Miss S Wilton 9-10-6 T Eley
8 /64 TIM SOLDIER 11 (G,S) M Barraclough 8-10-0 R Johnson (3)

3-1 Veleda II, 7-2 Boll Weevil, Strong Sound, 9-2 Mweenish, 6-1 Sparrow Hall, 10-1 Mo Ichi Do, 12-1 others.

3.35 CANNOCK CHEMICALS MARES ONLY STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,721: 2m) (16)

1 1 LA BELLA VILLA 29 (F) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-11 M Keighley (7)
2 0 BARONS VENTURE 12 J Bradley 4-11-4 Mr M Daly
3 0-0 BELLE BARONESS 189 J McConnochie 5-11-4 —
4 5-0 BIG VAL 19 B Preece 5-11-4 G Hogan (3)
5 0 CONNAPISHI 17 Mrs A Hewitt 6-11-4 Sophie Mitchell (5)
6 2-2 DECENT PENNY 35 Mrs M Reveley 6-11-4 G Cahill (7)
7 0- ETON MANOR 217 T Thomson Jones 4-11-4 G Tormey (3)
8 JOY FOR LIFE R Stronge 4-11-4 Mr M Rimell
9 420- LUCIA FORTE 276 K Bailey 4-11-4 J Magee (3)
10 6 MANARD 34 R Dickin 4-11-4 Philip Hughes (7)
11 MESP J O'Shea 4-11-4 B Fenton (5)
12 0-0 PARTY LADY 168 A J Wilson 6-11-4 Chris Webb (5)
13 2 POTTER'S GALE 11 D Nicholson 4-11-4 R Massey (5)
14 30 RI RA 14 R Hollinshead 5-11-4 Miss S Sharratt
15 SINGING SCALLY W Clay 4-11-4 Guy Lewis (3)
16 0- WOEFUL LAKE 268 A J Wilson 4-11-4 R Johnson (3)

2-1 La Bella Villa, 5-2 Potter's Gale, 3-1 Decent Penny, 10-1 Lucia Forte, 12-1 Manard, Eton Manor, 14-1 others.

☐ William Hill shortened Alderbrook to 3-1 favourite (from 4-1) for the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham next March. Last year's winner is cantering again after having chips removed from a leg.

Saturday portrait: Ben Clarke, by John Hopkins

England look forward to drive for victory from leader of the pack

As the spectators fidget noisily in their seats in the new West Stand at Twickenham in the last moments before the kick-off this afternoon, many will be unaware of the activity going on beneath their feet. Down in the changing-rooms, the England players will be warming up before running out on to the pitch for the game against Western Samoa. They will have time to do no more than cast a look in the direction of the ten old baths that happily retain a place amid the gleaming new surroundings because their minds will be on their own preparatory exercises.

Mike Catt, moved from stand-off half to full back, will be attempting a few punts in the kicking nets. Matt Dawson will throw out a few practice passes to Paul Grayson, his fellow debutant at half-back. The forwards will pack down on the scrummaging machine. At one point, Ben Clarke, the England pack leader, will gather his men around him for a moment for a final few words, urging them to a first victory in four matches.

A few years ago, the idea of Clarke leading an England pack would have been improbable. The squat and combative Brian Moore had the job and, if he left the field, then Dean Richards was the obvious choice to take over. Furthermore, the heir apparent to both the pack leadership and the captaincy appeared to be Tim Rodber, a fact that was acknowledged by the acronym accorded to him by his team-mates — FEC, for future England captain.

In those days, the large figure of Clarke was not a candidate for either of these jobs. He was big, strong and fast but was not as streetwise as Richards and did not have the experience of Leonard, nor the terrier-like qualities of Moore. What is more, he had "suspect hands", as they say in rugby. Often, too often, he knocked the ball on or failed to gather it cleanly. This weakness was acknowledged by a bet struck between Clarke and a notable rugby journalist when the two met at a bar where, naturally, they were both drinking orange juice. The bet was as follows: every time Clarke went through a game without knocking on, the reporter had to buy him a bottle of wine. Each occasion Clarke fumbled a ball, Clarke was to purchase a glass of wine for the said reporter.

Since the days when Clarke had poor hands, he has matured, like the good red wine he has yet to buy the journalist. Other factors have come into effect, too. Moore has been dropped by England, as has Richards, and Rodber's play has yet to demonstrate the vivacity of last season. So Clarke, 27 and playing the best rugby of his life, is in sole possession of the position of captain in waiting.

It is not a position with which he is uncomfortable. Clarke was one of the few forwards to gain respect for his combative performance when England were comprehensively beaten by South Africa at Twickenham a month ago. He is confident enough of his form now to feel that he has the respect of his peers.

> **'He is strong rather than athletic, the sort of fellow who tends to run through people'**

You could hardly say Clarke was born to lead. He has not been booted and spurred by the England rugby establishment. Born on April 15, 1968 in Bishop's Stortford, the first boy and youngest of three children, he was taken to mini-rugby by Bevan Clarke, his father. The friendly relationship between father and son may have been slightly strained by a remark Clarke once made. "He was a little bugger as a baby, screaming all the time," Clarke Sr once said. "That was until he was circumcised. That quietened him down a bit."

If you were looking for a man to stand in a dark alley and fight for your life, then Clarke would be one of the first you would sign up. If, on the other hand, you wanted a man to join you, Raffles-like, on a daring raid across roof tops, over skylights and through half-opened windows to steal the diamonds, Clarke, at 6ft 5in and 17 stone, is hardly the ideal accomplice. Indeed, he retains an air of coltish clumsiness. "Whoops," he said, smiling, when the tape recorder on the table in front of him was knocked flying as he unwound one limb from its embrace with another. "Sorry."

Clarke is one of very few men to have played international rugby in all three positions of the back row — No 8 and both open and blind-side flanker, No 7 and No 6. Clarke's assets are his speed, which is almost as fast as an out and out open-side flanker such as Andy Robinson, and his size, bigger than Mickey Skinner and Mike Teague, two of his predecessors in the No 6 shirt.

This experience enables Clarke to give a master-class in the three positions. He talks of the open-side flanker's job as being to cause as many problems as possible to the opposition half backs, to secure second-phase ball, to be the link between the point of breakdown and the rest of the forwards. The blind-side flanker is a support position — supporting the key jumper in the lineout, sweeping across the field in defence.

It is when he talks of the No 8 position that his enthusiasm becomes most evident. "It's the controlling position of the three," he said, reminding us that this Clarke is now the FEC, the man who relishes the position of responsibility he now holds. "No 8 calls the back row moves. You determine whether or not, or when, to go for a pushover try. It is a tighter position than the No 7 [open-side flanker]. You are still a support link between backs and forwards. The No 8 has more in common with the No 6 [blind-side flanker] than the No 7."

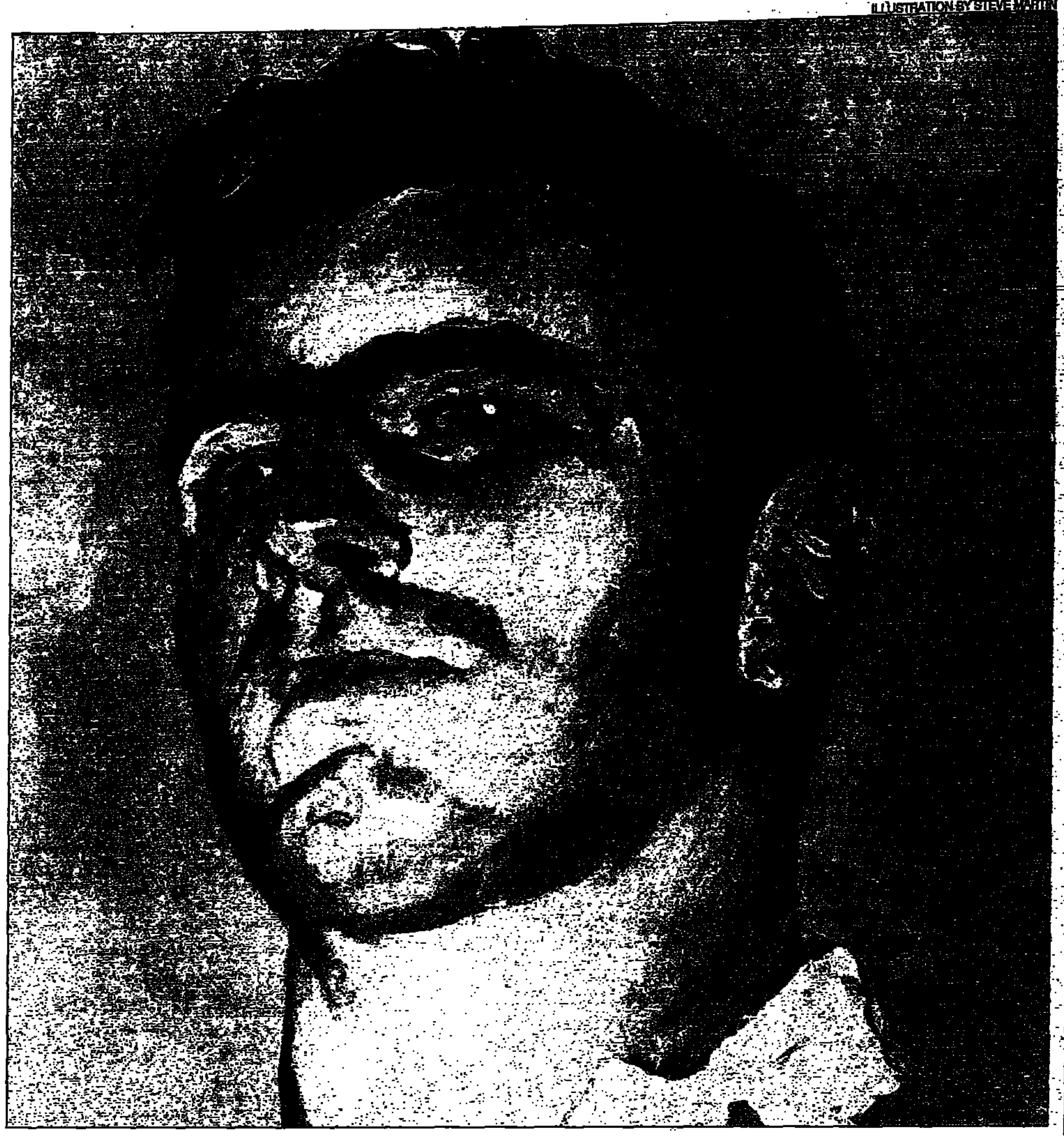


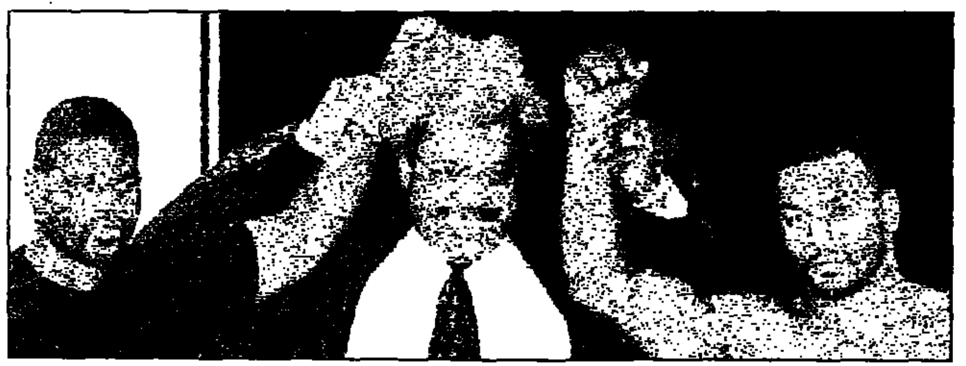
ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

As a No 8, Clarke appears to be a direct descendant of the athletic Andy Ripley and the physically impressive Dean Richards, a man on whom so many opposition attacks seemed to founder. "Ben is one of the most exciting No 8s around," Ripley said. "I see his talents as what I was good at, namely picking up the ball and running at people, though he is more of an all-round player than I was. He is strong rather than athletic, the sort of fellow who runs through people. He is not a hare."

In the car park outside the England team's hotel last week was a big black Mercedes 220, an N registration. It had Clarke's name on it in large letters as well as that of the suppliers. It was an effective indication of the station occupied in the world of rugby by Clarke, FEC, holder of 23 England caps and three for the British Isles against New Zealand in 1993. Mark Regan, the England hooker who today wins his second cap, drives a Ford.

Clarke, a single man, lives in and plays for Bath, the club that deserves the most credit for transforming him from a large, promising forward into an international at first and now into a player of true world class. The move from Saracens brought him under the keen gaze, sharp tongue and acute brain of Jack Rowell, then the Bath coach and now England's.

It did not do any harm to Clarke's play, either, that at the famous West Country club he was playing alongside many internationals, men of uncompromising attitude and mental and physical hardness. A former student at the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, he earns a living by doing promotional work on behalf of National Power and Crédit Lyonnais. These are the best of all times for Clarke and Englishmen can only hope that, as his form continues to blossom, so England's will to.



Mathis, left, and Tyson flank the promoter, Don King, after the weigh-in

Tyson's chilling forecast signals peril for Mathis

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT IN PHILADELPHIA

FRANK BRUNO will have a ringside side at the Spectrum here tonight to see for himself if Mike Tyson is still the monster that millions around the world want him to be. Bruno is scheduled to defend his World Boxing Council (WBC) title against Tyson in March and he will be hoping that Buster Mathis Jr will be able to take Tyson a few rounds to allow him to see how much of the destructive menace is still left in the former world champion.

Tyson's camp believes their man is back to 70 per cent of his old self. But, from all reports, it seems that 70 per cent may be too much for Mathis, who is not expected to last more than a round.

Tyson gives a forecast more chilling even than the freezing local weather: "I am not really into predictions," he said, "but trust me, I am going to give you something you'll never forget in Philly. Just sit down and watch."

One is reminded of a scene in the film *Jurassic Park*, where a monster devours an ox in less time than it takes a hungry dog to finish off a chicken wing.

USA Today's comment on the bout was to publish, in its sporting snapshots column, a list of Tyson's "waltzes in less than a minute". There are seven, ranging from Marvis Frazier in 30 seconds to Sterling Benjamin in 54 seconds.

The Philadelphia Inquirer railed against the contest: "Tyson is like something caged, restless with energy, ready to get on with the kill." Mathis, the newspaper thought, looks subservient and tentative, "always staring at the floor, perhaps knowing that he will be on it on Saturday ... Philadelphians have shown a rare and refreshing burst of good taste and fistic knowledge by staying away from this charade, something that is utterly without competitiveness."

If Tyson had not accepted, as of right, the No 1 position bestowed on him by the WBC at the expense of Lennox Lewis, the true No 1, the *Inquirer*'s anger would have been unjustified. After four years of absence from the ring, any boxer should be allowed a few easy contests. But, since Tyson truly believes he is No 1 in the world, he cannot be entitled to easy touches such as Mathis and one cannot blame that newspaper for raging at the mismatch.

Mathis, despite his record of no defeats in 22 contests (his bout with Riddick Bowe was a no-contest) is really a sacrificial offering. But he takes a stoical view. "I am frightened of being badly hurt," Mathis said. "I know when I walk down the aisle I am thinking that this could be the last fight of my life. What happened to Gerald McClellan crosses my mind thousands of times.

"But my father always said, 'fear is my friend'. It's not bad to be scared. If everybody was scared, the world would be a better place. We would be better protected.

"I am prepared for Mike Tyson. I know what he is going to do. Everybody knows what he is going to do. Knock me out in the first round. There is no shame in being knocked out. My father told me, 'If Mike Tyson is going to beat you, he's going to beat you. There is no shame in that, but don't let Buster Mathis beat Buster Mathis.'"

Mathis said he had studied Tyson and realised that, in these early days after his release from prison, Tyson would not be at his best and he might be able to give a better account of himself than people think. "It's the best time to beat Mike Tyson," he said. "When I fought Riddick Bowe, I was scared. It was my first big fight. But this time, I am in another frame of mind. I am prepared.

"When James [Buster] Douglas beat Tyson, he exploded the myth. The unbeatable became beatable. I look at Mike Tyson in a different way now. He's nowhere near the fighter he was." That is something Bruno also believes and, with a bit of luck, Mathis will stay in there long enough to confirm the view.

MANY THINGS HAVE GONE FOR A BURTON THESE DAYS – BUT THANKFULLY NOT IN BURTON. MARSTON'S PEDIGREE REMAINS THE GOLDEN PINT IT WAS IN GOOD OLD JOHN MARSTON'S DAY, BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY BEER STILL BREWED IN WOODEN CASKS. THANK HEAVENS SOME THINGS ARE WHAT THEY USED TO BE.

Everything goes in end game with a difference

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

Welcome to the colourful and sexy sport of the next millennium. Yes, you've guessed it, for there can really only be one contender — bowls. To be camped up and called SuperBowls. Yes, a game played by full-time professionals, making at least £100,000 a year on a 20-tournament circuit.

They will play in iridescent pyjamas, and send down woods painted in matching colours. The pace of the game will change forever with the introduction of a shot-clock, limiting the time between shots to 30 seconds. Games will take place from one end only, so that bowlers will send their woods into an amphitheatre of impassioned spectators. Athletes from other sports will take part in guest events: men will take on women and juniors.

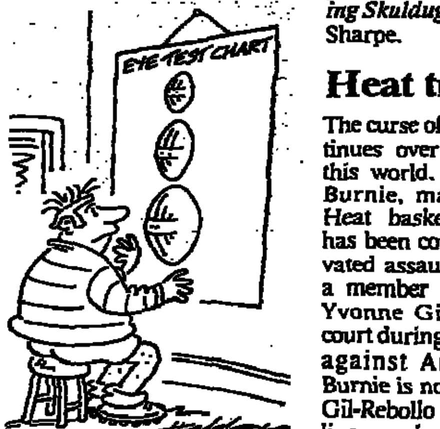
Welcome to SuperBowls, which is ready to kick off in Australia in February. "If you're going to drive a sport on to TV, you need continuity, regular product and quality product." Bill Childs, a former New South Wales rugby player who is chief executive of the SuperBowls Circuit, said. "There's a number of sports out there that have to get their acts together and package themselves for TV," he added severely.

His company is called Total Sports Image, presumably to distance itself from such concepts as total sports substance. The Australian Commonwealth Games gold medal-winner, Rex Johnston, who has signed on as tournament director, said: "Things are progressing in bowls, but it has to continue. If we get behind, we'll slowly die." I hear nothing about rock music, dry ice and cheerleaders, but no doubt they will follow as night does day.

Your round

Now we all really know how bowls should be played. Take our own national mixed inter-club championship, which is played by 300-odd clubs for the Egham Trophy. The structure of the competition is simple enough: after a preliminary round, there is a first round proper; last week the second round was played.

All well and good, but then they counted up the number of winners and discovered that there were, er, 66 of them. Oops, sorry chaps. They will have to play a special mini-round. There will be some unhappy bowlers out there, but they can console themselves with the thought that, yes, we have no pyjamas. Not yet, anyway.



☐ *Jack Rowell, the England rugby union manager, has just sent the entire squad to have their eyes tested. The test took 45 minutes and involved hand-eye coordination, something called "depth vision" and colour testing. Rowell needs no such testing himself, of course. He can spot a scapegoat at several thousand paces: Tony Underwood can vouch for that.*

Good sport

"Though Cambridge chivalrously offered the victory to Oxford, the latter with still greater chivalry declined to accept it." Thus the 1877 Boat Race was declared a dead heat. But is the spirit of 1877 dead? In 1988, Lawrence Lemieux, of Canada, was in second place in an Olympic yachting event when he saw another competitor in trouble. This was Joseph Chan, of Singapore: Chan had capsized and injured his back, and was being swept away by the current.

He might have drowned; Lemieux gave up his own race to make the rescue. Two incidents from the most intriguing section, a goody-goody, in-the-interests-of-balance chapter in a newly published book called *Sporting Skulduggery*, by Graham Sharpe.

Heat treatment

The curse of this column continues over the mascots of this world. Latest victim is Burnie, mascot of Miami Heat basketball team. He has been convicted of aggravated assault after dragging a member of the audience, Yvonne Gil-Rebollo, onto court during a game last year against Atlanta Hawks. Burnie is now being sued by Gil-Rebollo for, yes, $1 million, saying that everyone has a right to see a game "without being harassed, especially by a clown". Try watching from the press box.

Wise words

Literary stylist of the week is Dennis Wise. Last Saturday I caught up with his Wise Words column in the Chelsea programme. Most such columns sound like a PR person or a dalek: Wise's column sounds like a footballer.

"Hughesey did well, as it happens, and we got a great result. In fact we were gutted we didn't come away with a 1-0 win. But it was a great strike by Beckham, though it was one of them, wasn't it, that could have gone anywhere." The best column in the Premiership. He signs off with great brio: "Alright! Dennis Wise, Captain."

Western Samoans lack depth of experience to light up tour finale

England expects expression of style

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Jack Rowell, the England manager, talks tactics with Lawrence Dallaglio in training yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

WESTERN SAMOA'S first international at Twickenham today will be an occasion of even more than usual significance: they will help England to celebrate the official launch of the refurbished and floodlit stadium in the presence of the Duke of Edinburgh and a capacity house of 75,000 and, whether by accident or design, it is a happy gesture.

That an emerging — one might say emerged — nation shares this honour seems apt in these times of great change within rugby union, though it would be a rare Samoan supporter who did not note the soaring stands and gate receipts of around £2 million and wonder what so huge a sum could do for the development and stabilisation of rugby among his own people.

Indeed, as the England squad were returning completed contracts to the Rugby Football Union yesterday — it was hoped that at least 75 per cent would have done so — they would do well to consider that, if they feel underprivileged compared with their highly-paid counterparts in South Africa and Australasia, how must a Samoan feel compared with an England player?

An England contract is worth about £36,000 for those playing all six internationals this season, and is permissive by nature: that sum does not account for other commercial opportunities, for ghosted newspaper columns, for personal appearances and those close to the squad believe that several players can look forward to earnings close to six figures over the next 18 months.

Not that money will be on the minds of the touring party as they run out at Twickenham in the Save and Prosper international, only their second meeting with England after the 44-22 defeat during the World Cup last summer. A modest tour record of won five, lost five, with one draw, reflects the inexperience of many of their players, but this — with due regard for their 15-15 encounter with Scotland — is the occasion they have been awaiting.

"There has been a pick-up in intensity this week," Bryan Williams, their coach, said. "I think our tour will be judged by what happens against England. It's a milestone in the history of Western Samoan rugby and a great honour for the players appearing at Twickenham."

Remarkably, only 12 of the 30 players who started the World Cup pool match in Durban last June reappear today. Even allowing for squad changes, that is a considerable turnover, in England's case mostly voluntary, in Samoa's inflicted by the drain to rugby league and lucrative contracts elsewhere in the rugby union world.

Inevitably, the performance of the new England half backs will be the main focus of attention today, but, more than that, there must be some sign of a playing style with which England feel comfortable and which can be translated into an effective game. One may put any 15 players in white shirts, but, if they cannot play, or do not understand what is required to play the required style, then selection arguments are redundant.

Will Carling, the England captain, spoke of the need for collective responsibility, absent during the disappointing defeat against South Africa a month ago. "Sometimes there has been too much drifting, perhaps because there were some strong personalities within the squad who are no longer there," Carling said.

"People have to get used to taking responsibility, on and off the pitch. That has come on significantly over the last four weeks. South Africa was a shock to us. People now realise some of the guiding lights have gone and that we need to stabilise things in certain positions."

The deft mixture of rugby which earned the Midlands their victory over the Samoans and projected the Northampton halves into international rugby should provide England with a solid base today. Matt Dawson and Paul Grayson are sufficiently mature, in individual and rugby terms, not to be overawed when they take their place centre stage.

Like the other England team members, they have taken part in sports vision tests this week, which suggest a high measure of accomplishment compared with the various Olympic squads tested for hand-foot-eye co-ordination this year. But the translation of reactive speed from "cold" conditions to the heat of an international is one which English players, in particular, notoriously find difficult: they will be expected to win well today and, if they do not, they may find the Parc des Princes in January an unforgiving arena.

TODAY'S TEAMS AT TWICKENHAM

ENGLAND		WESTERN SAMOA
M J Catt (Bath)	15	V Patu (Vaiala)
D P Hopley (Wasps)	14	B Lima (Marist)
W D C Carling (Harlequins)*	13	T Vaega (Te Atatu)
J C Guscott (Bath)	12	G Leaupepe (Te Atatu)
R Underwood (Leicester/RAF)	11	A Telea (Petone)
P J Grayson (Northampton)	10	D Kellett (Ponsonby)
M J S Dawson (Northampton)	9	J Filemu (Wellington)
G C Rowntree (Leicester)	1	M Mika (Otago University)
M P Regan (Bristol)	2	T Leiasamaiva'a (Moataa)
J Leonard (Harlequins)	3	P Fatialofa (Manukau)
T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army)	6	S Kaleta (Ponsonby)
M O Johnson (Leicester)	4	P Leavasa (Apia)
M C Bayfield (Northampton)	5	L Falaniko (Marist)
L B N Dallaglio (Wasps)	7	S Vaifale (Marist)
B B Clarke (Bath)	8	P Lam (Marist)*

Referee: I Rogers (South Africa) Kick off 2.30pm BBC1 live * captain

REPLACEMENTS: 16 J E B Callard (Bath), 17 P R de Glanville (Bath), 18 K P P Bracken (Bristol), 19 V E Ubogu (Bath), 20 R G R Dawe (Bath), 21 R A Robinson (Bath).

REPLACEMENTS: 16 K Tuigamala (SCOPA), 17 A Autagavaia (Suburbs), 18 S Smith (Helensville), 19 M Birtwhistle (Suburbs), 20 G Latu (Vaimoso), 21 O Matauiau (Moataa).

Sole receives ban for verbal abuse

By Mark Souster and David Hands

THE Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) yesterday announced that David Sole, the former Scotland captain, has been banned from coaching at his club, Edinburgh Academicals, for the rest of the season. Sole, capped 44 times, was found guilty by an SRU disciplinary committee of bringing the game into disrepute, for describing a referee's performance in an important League match last month which his club lost, as "tantamount to cheating".

The SRU's anger was also fired by Sole's subsequent attitude. He failed to attend a hearing at Murrayfield two weeks ago, claiming he had to babysit, and has still to apologise to Colin Henderson, the referee concerned.

There now appears no way back in to international rugby for Robert Jones, Wales's most-capped scrum half. He and Mike Hall, who captained his country in the World Cup last summer, are omitted from the first Wales training squad to be announced since Kevin Bowring was appointed as full-time coach.

The party of 42, which will prepare for the meeting with Italy next month and the 1996 five nations' championship, includes a recall for another former national captain, Gareth Llewellyn, and the experienced Emyr Lewis. "We haven't closed the door on anyone," Bowring said. "Robert has been very loyal and a terrific player for Wales in the past and now we are looking to the future."

WALES SQUAD: Backs: J Thomas (Llanelli), I Evans (Llanelli), W Proctor (Llanelli), S Hill (Cardiff), A Harris (Swansea), G Evans (Llanelli), G Thomas (Bridgend), L Davies (Neath), D Evans (Treorchy), M Wintle (Llanelli), M Taylor (Swansea), N Jenkins (Pontypridd), A Thomas (Bristol), M Lewis (Bridgend), A Moore (Cardiff), R Howley (Bridgend), P John (Pontypridd). Forwards: A Lewis (Cardiff), C Loader (Swansea), J Davies (Neath), L Mustoe (Cardiff), S John (Llanelli), C Anthony (Swansea), J Humphreys (Cardiff), G Jenkins (Swansea), R McBryde (Llanelli), D Jones (Cardiff), A Moore (Swansea), G Llewellyn (Neath), M Voyle (Newport), P Jones (Llanelli), H Taylor (Cardiff), S Williams (Neath), O Williams (Cardiff), E Lewis (Cardiff), A Gibbs (Newbridge), C Quinnell (Llanelli), M Spiller (Pontypridd), M Bennett (Cardiff), R Appleyard (Swansea), G Jones (Llanelli), C Scott (Neath)

Miragh reflects on failings of millionaires

From Andrew Longmore in Tryall, Jamaica

FOR a moment, at the plush Tryall golf resort yesterday, it seemed that Biah Miragh might gatecrash the big boys' banquet at last. Only for a round and only as a marker, mind, but a potential red letter day for the eight-times Jamaican champion nonetheless.

Fortunately, perhaps, for the professional pride of the 20 millionaires in the Johnnie Walker world championship, Anders Forsbrand rose from his sickbed just in time to take his place for the second day and Miragh returned to the shadows of the pro shop to contemplate the plaque which commemorates his round of 62 here earlier this year.

A repeat of that sort of scoring, however inconsequential the round, would have heightened local bewilderment at the hash some of the "best of the best", as the posters advertise the field, made of the tricky, but hardly devastating, Tryall course on the opening day. "There was something strange going on," Miragh said. "I'd fancy my chances of making some money out there."

Even the £35,000 for finishing last would have kept him happy for a year or two. Though his nearest brush with international fame came in 1976, when lack of money forced him to turn down an invitation to try to qualify for the Open, at Royal Birkdale, in the year Severiano Ballesteros made his debut and finished second to Johnny Miller. I fancy he would have done better than that.

Brought up alongside the Half Moon course in Montego Bay, where his father farmed a smallholding, and superintendent of the greens at Tryall for the past nine years, Miragh has the benefit of local knowledge and of an upbringing that allowed no room for complacency. For much of his youth, he learnt the game with one eye on the ball, the other peering through the gathering twilight or the early morning haze for the imposing figure of the greenkeeper.

Caddies were supposed to carry the bags, not play the course, and any violation was punished by dismissal. Miragh and his friends kept their clubs, such as they were, hidden in the bushes and more than once had to run for their lives from officialdom.

"We had two or three clubs, maybe, because as a caddie you weren't earning much," Miragh recalled. "Ten shillings for a round maybe. There was no way you could afford a full set. But they were good days." Luckily, the resident professional at the Half Moon, a tall, well-built man called Humphrey Harber, did not subscribe to the prevailing notion that golf was a game exclusively for the white man.

Miragh found golf at the age of 11, began caddieing at the age of 14 before moving to Kingston to find fame and fortune. He worked in a supermarket which ran alongside a private course in Kingston, brewed beer for a living before becoming greenkeeper at the Constant Spring and Caymanas courses where, in his free time, he was able to hone his budding skills on the course. Only when he was 24 did he have the luxury of owning his own clubs, a set of Slazengers bought by his wife as a birthday present.

Now 46 and a former champion of the Caribbean, Miragh is looking forward to qualifying for the lucrative seniors tour in the United States in four years' time, a belated chance to earn some money from the game. Not that he is complaining at the turn his life has taken — "better than working in the supermarket" — but he would not be human if he did not look at the array of talent in the world championship and wonder if, in different circumstances, he too could not have jumped on the gravy train too.

Miragh: no complaints

His chief frustration, though, stems from the shortage of facilities available for young Jamaicans to follow him. Attitudes might have changed, he says, as more of the Jamaican middle-class take up golf, but little else has improved. There is still no municipal course on the island nor any free coaching clinics.

"Golf is still too expensive to play and the image on the street is that it is still a game for the elite. You've got to have a clear mind to play golf, you can't be wondering where you're next meal is coming from."

Miragh can dine out for the rest of his life on the tale of his 62 last March. At the 18th, he hit a two-iron and nine-iron to two feet for his tenth birdie of the round. "It was the proudest moment of my life," he said. Showed the pampered pros a thing or two as well.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CLUBS' CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final series: Group A: Olympique Antibes (Fr) 81 Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 82, Unicaja Malaga (Sp) 70 Benetton Treviso (It) 72. Group B: Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) 78 Cibona Zagreb (Cro) 75, Benfica (Por) 73 Real Madrid 78, Virtus Bologna (It) 69 Panathinaikos (Gr) 72

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Indiana 102 Toronto 100; Chicago 127 Atlanta 108, Denver 103 New York 94; San Antonio 126 Dallas 111, Portland 116 Charlotte 109; LA Clippers 89 Miami 84

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Second round replays: Brighton 0 Fulham 0 (aet: Fulham win 4-1 on pens), Gravesend and Northfleet 3 Cinderford 0

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Second division: Torquay 2 Birmingham 1

ITALIAN CUP: Quarter-final, second leg: Atalanta 4 Cagliari 2 (Atalanta win 4-3 on agg)

CRICKET

ADELAIDE: World Series match (Sri Lanka won toss): Sri Lanka beat West Indies by four wickets

WEST INDIES

P V Simmons c Mahanama b Ranatunga	18
*R B Richardson c Kaluwitharana b Ranatunga	5
S L Campbell lbw b Muralitharan	47
S Chanderpaul run out	1
C L Hooper c Tillekeratne b Muralitharan	23
J C Adams c Muralitharan b Dharmasena	11
R A Harper c Jayasuriya b Vaas	23
†C O Browne run out	6
I R Bishop not out	8
C E L Ambrose not out	0
Extras (lb 10, w 6, nb 2)	18
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	180

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-50, 3-56, 4-101, 5-122, 6-122, 7-136, 8-160.

BOWLING: Wickremasinghe 7-0-22-0; Vaas 7-1-17-1; Gurusinha 8-0-25-0; Ranatunga 10-1-24-2; Muralitharan 10-0-35-2; Dharmasena 8-0-27-1.

SRI LANKA

R S Mahanama c Campbell b Ambrose	0
S T Jayasuriya c Bishop b Walsh	28
A P Gurusinha b Bishop	15
P A de Silva c Brown b Hooper	46
*A Ranatunga c Campbell b Bishop	27
H P Tillekeratne not out	17
†R S Kaluwitharana c Brown b Bishop	8
H D P K Dharmasena not out	5
Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 2, nb 7)	15
Total (6 wkts, 45 overs)	161

U C Hathurusinghe, W P U J C Vaas, G P Wickremasinghe and M Muralitharan did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-24, 3-54, 4-113, 5-130, 6-152

BOWLING: Ambrose 7-0-29-1; Walsh 10-5-23-1; Bishop 10-1-38-3; Simmons 3-0-17-0; Harper 5-0-25-0; Hooper 10-1-23-1.

DUNEDIN: First one-day international (Pakistan won toss): Pakistan beat New Zealand by 20 runs

PAKISTAN

Ramiz Raja b Cairns	35
Aamir Sohail c Spearman b Patel	17
Ijaz Ahmed lbw b Larsen	9
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Patel b Astle	32
Salim Malik c Twose b Astle	13
Basit Ali run out	19
*Wasim Akram run out	16
†Rashid Latif not out	26
Mushtaq Ahmed c Twose b Cairns	5
Waqar Younis b Morrison	0
Aqib Javed not out	8
Extras (lb 6, w 3)	9
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	189

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-52, 3-82, 4-101, 5-123, 6-139, 7-158, 8-173, 9-175

BOWLING: Patel 7-0-21-1, Morrison 9-0-39-1, Larsen 10-0-29-1; Cairns 9-1-42-2; Astle 10-0-34-2; Twose 5-0-18-0

NEW ZEALAND

C M Spearman c Ijaz b Aqib	5
N J Astle c and b Wasim	5
B A Young b Waqar	17
S P Fleming lbw b Waqar	15
A C Parore b Waqar	2
R G Twose b Wasim	59
C L Cairns c Rashid b Mushtaq	18
*†L K Germon c Wasim b Mushtaq	1
D N Patel c Basit b Salim	9
G R Larsen c Ijaz b Wasim	23
D K Morrison not out	0
Extras (lb 9, w 5, nb 1)	15
Total (47.4 overs)	169

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-16, 3-43, 4-46, 5-50, 6-92, 7-94, 8-114, 9-164

BOWLING: Wasim 9.4-1-18-3; Aqib 9-0-38-1, Waqar 9-0-38-3, Mushtaq 10-1-31-2; Sohail 9-0-30-0, Salim 1-0-5-1

MADRAS: One day international: England 148-9; India 149-3. India win series 3-2.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Melbourne (third day of four): Victoria 430-6 dec and 160-6, Tasmania 292.

CASTLE CUP (first day of four): Cape Town: Free State 247, Western Province 59-1. Paarl: Boland 209, Border 38-2. Johannesburg: Northern Transvaal 131 and 31-1; Transvaal 130

CURLING

GRINDELWALD, Switzerland: European championships: Quarter-finals. Men: Scotland 5 England 4; Norway 5 Sweden 4; Italy 6 France 4 (extra end), Switzerland 7 Germany 5. Women: Sweden 13 Finland 2; Norway 7 Switzerland 6; Scotland 8 Denmark 4; Germany 10 Austria 3.

GOLF

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica: Johnnie Walker world championship: First round scores: 66: W Riley (Aus). 69: V Singh (Fiji). 70: L Roberts (US), F Couples (US). 71: B Langer (Ger). 72: D Duval (US), P Mickelson (US), M Calcavecchia (US). 73: A Cejka (Ger). 74: N Faldo (GB). 75: P Azinger (US), B Mayfair (US), L Janzen (US), C Montgomerie (GB). 77: P Senior (Aus), S Torrance (GB). 79: E Els (SA). 80: J Daly (US), T Izawa (Japan). 83: A Forsbrand (Swe)

BRISBANE: Coolum Classic: Second round (Aus unless stated): 138: S Robinson 69, 69, A Gilligan 67, 71. 139: S Leaney 72, 67. 140: J Evans 71, 69; S Alker (NZ) 70, 70; B Jackson (GB) 70, 70. 141: R Swanson 73, 68; N Smith 72, 69, S Appleby 67, 74, L Tinkler 71, 70. Other British: 156: S Bottomley 75, 81

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 6 Florida 4, Philadelphia 4 Tampa Bay 0, Washington 4 NY Islanders 3 (OT), St Louis 3 Calgary 3 (OT), Toronto 4 San Jose 1

ICE SKATING

LONDON: Challenge of champions: Men: 1, P Wylie (US) 99.1pts, 2, V Petrenko (Ukr) 98.2; 3, R Cousins (GB) 98.1. Women: 1, Y Sato (Japan) 99.2; 2, D Bielmann (Switz) 98.6; 3, K Witt (Ger) 98.2. Pairs: 1, E Bechke and D Petrov (Russ) 98.7, 2, I Brasseur and L Eisler (Can) 97.4, 3, C Urbanski and R Marval (US) 97.1. Dance: 1, J Torvill and C Dean (GB) 99.9, 2, M Usova and A Zhulin (Russ) 99.0; 3, N Annenko and G Sretenski (Russ) 98.1

SKIING

ST ANTON, Austria: Women's World Cup downhill: 1, K Seizinger (Ger) 2min 6.88sec; 2, H Zurbriggen (Switz) 2:07.12; 3, A Meissnitzer (Austria) 2:07.29. Downhill standings: 1, Seizinger 180pts, 2, P Street (US) 140, 3, Zurbriggen 102. Overall standings: 1, Seizinger 360pts, 2, Meissnitzer 268, 3, M Ertl (Ger) 267

SWIMMING

SHEFFIELD: Uncle Ben's Winter Challenge: Men: 200m freestyle: 1, A Clayton (City of Leeds) 1min 46.99sec; 2, P Palmer 1:48.26, 3, S Mellor (City of Birmingham) 1:48.33. 1,500m freestyle: 1, I Wilson (City of Leeds) 14min 40.69sec; 2, G Smith (Stockport M) 14:49.71; 3, G Hudson (Portsmouth N) 15:21.72. 50m butterfly: 1, M Foster (City of Cardiff) 23.45sec, 2, J Gojkovic (City of Sheffield) 24.72; 3, J Salter (City of Birmingham) 24.96. 50m backstroke: 1, N Willey (Barnet C) 24.88, 2, M Harris (Waltham F) 25.16, 3, S Handley (City of Sheffield) 26.21. 4 x 100m medley: 1, City of Cardiff 3min 43.92sec, 2, City of Leeds 3:47.69, 3, City of Swansea 3:48.79. Women: 200m freestyle: 1, K Brienesse (Holl) 1min 58.43sec, 2, C Geurts (Holl) 1:59.58, 3, A Bennett (Nova Centurion) 2:00.13. 400m individual medley: 1, H Cerna (Cz) 4min 38.88sec, 2, L Findlay (Wycombe D) 4:40.95; 3, H Slatter (Warrington W) 4:46.44. 200m backstroke: 1, J Deakins (City of Coventry) 2min 12.31sec, 2, E Tattam (Portsmouth N) 2:12.91, 3, R Sherrington (Portsmouth N) 2:14.01. 100m breaststroke: 1, J King (Waltham F) 1:09.09; 2, M Hardiman (City of Birmingham) 1:10.69; 3, S Brownsdon (City of Coventry) 1:10.85

YACHTING

PORT ELIZABETH: World windsurfing championships: Leading standings: Men (after five races) 1, N Kaklamanakis (Gr) 11.5pts, 2, A McIntosh (NZ) 20.5, 3, J Rodrigues (Por) 21.0. Women (after eight races) 1, A Francois (Fr) 16.0, 2, M Herbort (Fr) 26.0; 3, L-S Lee (HK) 34.0.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	20	80	good	varied	fair	fair	5	10/12
(Good skiing on majority of open runs)								
AUSTRIA								
Altenmarkt	30	70	good	varied	good	sun	8	14/12
(Very good skiing on powdery snow, all lifts open)								
Kitzbühel	15	60	fair	varied	fair	sun	5	14/12
(More lifts and runs now open; mostly good skiing)								
Lech	40	55	good	powder	good	sun	10	14/12
(Fresh snow and good skiing; 29 lifts open)								
Mayrhofen	10	50	good	varied	closed	sun	3	14/12
(Good skiing for the opening day of season)								
St Anton	25	125	fair	varied	fair	fine	8	14/12
(Conditions generally good; well prepared pistes)								
FRANCE								
Les Arcs	10	50	fair	varied	art	cloud	3	14/12
(20cm of snow at Arc 2000, skiing relatively limited)								
Evalier	25	70	fair	varied	fair	cloud	2	14/12
(Good skiing available; 13/67 lifts open)								
Tignes	20	100	fair	varied	art	cloud	3	14/12
(Top lifts closed by high winds; glacier still good)								
Val d'Isère	10	100	fair	varied	art	snow	4	15/12
(Very cold and windy; le fornet good)								
SWITZERLAND								
Klosters	10	45	fair	varied	fair	sun	4	14/12
(Good skiing available on higher runs)								
Zermatt	0	80	icy	crusty	closed	snow	5	15/12
(Sunnegga increasingly icy, glacier cold and windy)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper, art - artificial.

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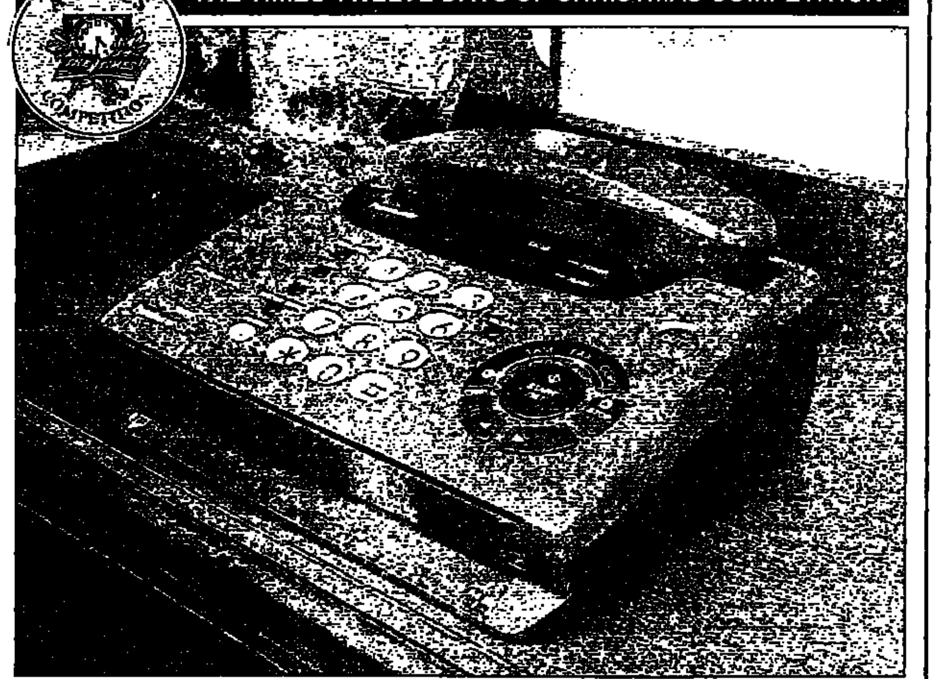
THE TIMES TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS COMPETITION



7 Panasonic phone faxes worth £300 to be won

Today *The Times*, continuing our *Twelve Days of Christmas* competition, brings you the chance to win a Panasonic phone fax machine worth £300 each. In the traditional carol the swain sent his true love seven swans a-swimming but today's besotted beau is more likely to send a fax.

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RACING 40, 41

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SPORT

RUGBY UNION 43

ENGLAND EXPECTED TO DELIVER VICTORY IN STYLE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16 1995

Uefa vows to fight after illegal transfers ruling

By John Goodbody

UEFA, the governing body of European football, will fight against the European Court's ruling yesterday that the football transfer system and restrictions on the number of foreign players fielded by clubs are illegal.

Although the Court of Justice stated that the present restrictions broke European Union (EU) laws and that footballers were entitled to the same freedom of movement after a contract has ended as other workers, Uefa wants sport to be designated a "special case". It fears that, without transfer fees, many smaller clubs will become bankrupt and that a chasm will open between the elite and minor clubs.

Uefa's 49 member countries are also concerned that increasing numbers of foreign players will go to the richest clubs — there are already 145 players who were born outside the British Isles registered either with the FA Premiership or the Endsleigh Insurance League. Uefa will take its case to the European Commission, the executive body of the EU, and hopes to reach a compromise.

Mel Goldberg, a sports lawyer with Portner and Jaskell, said: "As I understand it, the Commission has the powers to make an exception if it believes this is in the interests of the Union."

Lennart Johansson, the Uefa president, said football had been "left in a mess". "Today the players are an asset on their clubs' balance sheets, who have played billions for them. Tomorrow they will not be assets. This is an attack on football, the implications of which we do not know."

Significantly, the ruling on the case brought by Jean-Marc Bosman, the Belgian footballer who sacrificed his career to win his legal struggle for the rights of his fellow players, was restricted to transfers between European member states. It did not rule on transfers between clubs from the same country.

Rick Parry, the chief executive of the FA Premier League, said: "This is certainly not the end of the transfer system as the Bosman case definitely only applies to out-of-contract transfers and, in any event, the European Commission will now have responsibility for overseeing possible changes to that part of the system.

"The Commission may also take the view that it can only rule on transfers between EU member states. The English domestic system, at this stage at least, may not be significantly affected."

Bosman's lawyer, Luc Misson, pointed out, however, that national transfers would also be affected as players, whose contracts have expired, could now threaten to move to a foreign club for nothing. Bosman will return to the Belgian appeals court to seek damages of about £600,000 from Uefa, the Belgian football federation and his former club, FC Liege. His five-year battle began in 1990 when he wanted to move from FC Liege to the French club, Dunkerque. Liege cut his wages and demanded a high tranfer fee.

Bosman will have some financial compensation when he has a benefit match in Malaga, Spain, on April 14, between a European XI and a Rest of the World XI. He said: "Support from professional players had been tentative until today. I now hope the biggest names in European football, such as David Ginola and Eric Cantona, will take part as just returns for the difficult fight that I have led." Bosman is now playing for Vise, the Belgian fourth division club.

The ruling became effective yesterday and does not apply to previous transfers, except in the case of Bosman. The ruling on foreigners is also drastic. European competition regulations permit each club to field no more than three foreigners. British clubs are also allowed to field two "assimilated" players, who have lived in the country for at least five years or have played in the youth team.

Uefa also yesterday that only three English clubs would be allowed in the Uefa Cup next season because the English representatives in the Intertoto Cup last season did not take the competition seriously.

Gascoigne's tax, page 13
Rob Hughes, page 38
Model striker, page 39

Mike Walker, the former Norwich City and Everton manager, is about to take over as the new manager of Leicester City, having been out of football for 13 months.

Walker, 50, has had talks with Martin George, the Leicester chairman, over the vacancy created by the departure of Mark McGhee. He is due to meet George again tomorrow before watching Leicester take on Norwich in his role as a commentator for Anglia TV.

Fast bowler inspires collapse after last-wicket stand lifts South Africa

Donald puts England on back foot

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, in Durban

DURBAN (second day of five): England, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 102 runs behind South Africa

IT IS not very often, in cricket, that a team is winning a Test match before lunch and losing it shortly after tea but that, in simple terms, was the fate of England at Kingsmead yesterday. They ended a steamy and eventful second day of the third Test with their batting in disarray and John Crawley's future on the tour under threat. The agent of their decline, in several different ways, was Allan Donald.

Donald the bowler is an opponent England acknowledge and respect. Donald the batsman had not, until yesterday, caused them any sleepless nights. But, in sharing, with Shaun Pollock the highest stand of the game for South Africa's tenth wicket, Donald gave this extraordinary Test its most significant twist.

The partnership, worth 72, not only elevated a sickly South African total to competitive proportions and gave Donald scope to bowl venomously with the new ball. Indirectly, it also caused serious disruption to England's short and longer-term strategy, for it was midway through this unlikely liaison that Crawley pulled up in the field like a lame racehorse. Clutching his left hamstring with suitably crestfallen expression, Crawley left the field and has not, thus far, returned.

Wayne Morton, the team physiotherapist, reported last night that Crawley could bat today with a runner but would not be properly fit for at least a fortnight. "It might be longer but it would be a miracle if it is any less," he said. John Barclay, the assistant manager, said that the injury will be reassessed today before any decision is made regarding a replacement. Nasser Hussain, who is captaining the England A team in Pakistan, would be the favourite, although Neil Fairbrother is already due to join the party after Christmas for the one-day series.

Injuries come no more untimely than this. Crawley had been two wickets away from resuming his interrupted England career and, given that South Africa's Nos 9 and 11 had outstayed their welcome, human nature decrees that he had already begun to ponder and plan. But this was an occasion when the jinx that apparently brings down England No 3s took effect even before the new man had padded up.

For reasons best explained by the miserable record of its incumbents, no one else in the England middle order is anxious to bat at three. Graham Thorpe was pressed into service and found himself walking to the middle after the first over of the England reply, and walking back again in the fifth. The day, the game, potentially the series had been turned on its head and by the close it was South Africa who had most cause to fret over the forecast of a wet weekend.

If England felt ill-treated by the events of the day, South Africa ended with their own anxiety, about Donald himself. Ironically, he too was feeling discomfort from his left hamstring but, though heavily strapped, it is not expected to stop him bowling today.

Crawley: injury worry

Donald was striding to the middle far earlier in the day than he must have hoped, after South Africa's symmetrical innings — three substantial partnerships and two clusters of wickets — had suffered its second collapse. Four wickets fell for 12 and although the first went to Peter Martin, the drama was supplied by a burst of three for one in six balls by the previously wicketless Mark Ilott.

Martin's outswinger dislodged Brian McMillan, caught low to his right by Jack Russell, but at 152 for six Ilott was given his chance to atone for a charitable spell on the first morning. He wasted no time in doing so. His second ball, an inswinger which took Jonty Rhodes on the outstretched front pad, earned an arguable leg-before decision and his sixth, slanted towards the slips, had Richardson caught behind as he played speculatively for the swing.

The first ball of Ilott's next over accounted for Craig Matthews but Donald, who plausibly claimed he had no idea he was a potential hat-trick victim, off-drove his first ball for four. It was 103 minutes later when he was bowled, driving at Illingworth, and by then untold damage had been done to England's prospects.

Donald quickly caused more. Only last week, he had tried vainly for almost 11 hours to take Michael Atherton's wicket. Now, he needed only six balls, the England captain failing to get over a defensive push and being caught low by the finer of two gullies. This was the first of five sharp catches taken by the South Africans in support of some hostile seam bowling on a pitch offering steep bounce but little lateral movement.

Thorpe declined to walk for a first slip catch until the umpires had confirmed the ball carried and Robin Smith then began his first Test innings in his native city as if overcome by nerves. He recovered his composure to share a stand of 70 for the third wicket before Matthews extracted some extra bounce and Smith, opening the face of the bat, was nimbly taken at second slip.

Alec Stewart once more played a fatally loose shot when apparently well set and, for once, Russell could not supervise the salvage operation. Graeme Hick remained, and Crawley was padded up on the balcony, when the umpires offered a retreat for bad light. With 11.3 overs remaining, and scope for things to get still worse, England accepted gratefully.

Hussain's heroics, page 41

SCOREBOARD FROM DURBAN

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings

G Kirsten c Hick b Martin ... 8
(79min, 62 balls)
A C Hudson c Crawley b Illingworth 45
(86min, 63 balls, 9 fours)
*W J Cronje c Martin b Illingworth .. 8
(28min, 17 balls, 1 four)
D J Cullinan c Smith b Martin ... 10
(64min, 60 balls, 2 fours)
J N Rhodes lbw b Ilott ... 38
(182min, 132 balls, 4 fours)
J H Kallis c Russell b Martin ... 1
(12min, 12 balls)
B M McMillan c Russell b Martin .. 28
(94min, 81 balls, 3 fours)
†D J Richardson c Russell b Ilott ... 7
(32min, 16 balls, 1 four)
S M Pollock not out ... 36
(112min, 67 balls, 5 fours)
C R Matthews lbw b Ilott ... 0
(5min, 1 ball)
A A Donald b Illingworth ... 32
(102min, 90 balls, 5 fours)
Extras (lb 11, nb 1) ... 12
Total (100 overs, 405min) ... 225

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-54 (Hudson 45), 2-56 (Cronje 2), 3-73 (Cullinan 9), 4-85 (Rhodes 9), 5-89 (Rhodes 12), 6-141 (Rhodes 36), 7-152 (Richardson 7), 8-153 (Pollock 1), 9-153 (Pollock 1)

BOWLING: Cork 27-12-64-0 (nb 1; 9-5-18-0, 3-2-9-0, 7-3-14-0, 4-1-9-0, 4-1-14-0); Ilott 15-3-48-3 (5-1-15-0, 3-0-9-0, 7-2-24-3), Martin 27-9-60-4 (2-0-17-0, 4-1-6-1, 7-3-8-2, 7-4-6-1, 7-1-23-0), Illingworth 29-12-37-3 (22-8-33-2, 7-4-4-1); Hick 2-0-5-0 (one spell).

SCORING NOTES: Lunch: 211-9 (91 overs, 374min) Pollock 32, Donald 22. Second new ball. 179-9 (82 overs) at 11.0.

ENGLAND: First innings

*M A Atherton c Hudson b Donald... 2
(4min, 6 balls)
A J Stewart c Hudson b Matthews . 41
(130min, 85 balls, 8 fours)
G P Thorpe c Cullinan b Donald ... 2
(17min, 11 balls)
R A Smith c McMillan b Matthews .. 34
(94min, 73 balls, 6 fours)
G A Hick not out ... 16
(69min, 40 balls, 3 fours)
†R C Russell c Rhodes b Matthews 8
(43min, 29 balls, 1 four)
D G Cork not out ... 10
(12min, 7 balls, 2 fours)
Extras (lb 4, nb 6) ... 10
Total (5 wkts, 40.3 overs, 188min) 123

J P Crawley, P J Martin, M C Ilott and R K Illingworth to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2 (Stewart 0), 2-13 (Stewart 4), 3-83 (Stewart 36), 4-93 (Hick 4), 5-109 (Hick 12).

BOWLING: Donald 8.3-1-40-2 (nb 1; 4-0-18-2, 4-1-16-0, 0.3-0-6-0); Pollock 11-1-27-0 (nb 5; 4-0-10-0, 7-1-17-0); Matthews 12-5-31-3 (5-3-10-0, 7-2-21-3), McMillan 9-3-21-0 (nb 1; 4-1-14-0, 5-2-7-0)

SCORING NOTES: Tea: 56-2 (17 overs, 77min) Stewart 23, Smith 22. Bad light stopped play at 4.30pm.

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and D L Orchard. TV replay umpire: K E Liebenberg. Match referee: C H Lloyd (West Indies).

RESULTS: First Test (Pretoria): drawn. Second Test (Johannesburg): drawn.

TESTS TO COME: Fourth (Port Elizabeth) Dec 26 to 30. Fifth (Cape Town) Jan 2 to 6.

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

DEREK COX

Stewart takes a hostile delivery from Matthews on the helmet in Durban yesterday

West Indies outplayed by Sri Lanka

AS DELEGATES of the West Indies cricket board gathered in Bridgetown, Barbados, to discuss the future of Brian Lara, their team in Australia was going down by four wickets to Sri Lanka in Adelaide yesterday in the opening fixture of the World Series Cup.

West Indies, playing with a distracted air, gave a lacklustre performance. Batting first, after losing the toss, they laboured to 160 for eight from their allotted 50 overs. Sri Lanka then recovered from losing Roshan Mahanama to the first ball of the innings to score 161 for six with five overs to spare.

Aravinda de Silva, who scored 46 from 61 balls, looked more comfortable than any other batsman on a slow, turning pitch.

"We are still struggling," Richie Richardson, the West Indies captain, confessed. "The way we are playing, we will just have to work a bit harder."

Sri Lanka's repeat of their win in the Champions' Trophy final in Sharjah two months' ago was a serious blow to West Indies, who were beaten by eight wickets on Tuesday by the youngsters of the Australian Cricket Academy, who bowled them out for 92.

The man-of-the-match award went to the Sri Lanka captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, who claimed the wickets of Richardson and Phil Simmons with his medium-pace bowling and conceded only 24 runs in his ten overs. He followed with a useful 27.

Sherwin Campbell prevented a total West Indies collapse with a patient but uninspiring innings of 47 from 106 deliveries, but between them the batsmen managed only five boundaries.

The Sri Lankans, in sharp contrast to their opponents, were enthusiastic and alert in the field and bowled with great accuracy, if little menace.

Chaminda Vaas set the tone by conceding just six runs from five overs in his opening spell as the ball swung freely.

Hashan Tillekeratne supported the bowlers superbly, taking a high one-handed catch to dismiss Carl Hooper for 23 after brilliantly running out Shivnarine Chanderpaul for one.

Scoreboard, page 43

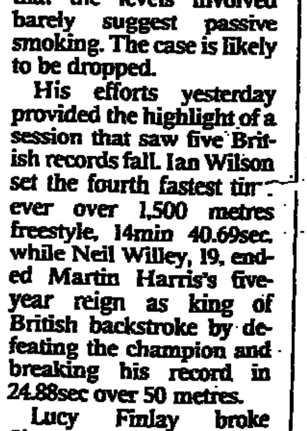
Foster's power brings world record

By Craig Lord

MARK FOSTER has made a habit of breaking world short-course swimming records in the wilderness of winter, and yesterday, in Sheffield, he broke another, over 50 metres butterfly, ploughing into the wall at Ponds Forge pool in 23.45sec, 0.1sec inside his previous best. The bonus was a prize of £5,000.

In 1993, on the World Cup circuit, Foster broke world records at 50 metres freestyle and butterfly. He has since broken the butterfly standard three times but lost the freestyle record. On his form of yesterday, the 6ft 5 sprinter may recapture that today.

Foster is now leaner, fitter, more disciplined and wiser about his sport than ever before. It is ironic, then, that a bad-boy past should have come back to haunt him now; a drugs test in July found traces of cannabis, but Britain and Foster were only told late last month. On his way to the blocks yesterday, Foster was told by Dave Haller, his coach, that the levels involved barely suggest passive smoking. The case is likely to be dropped.



Foster: bad-boy past

His efforts yesterday provided the highlight of a session that saw five British records fall. Ian Wilson set the fourth fastest time ever over 1,500 metres freestyle, 14min 40.69sec, while Neil Willey, 19, ended Martin Harris's five-year reign as king of British backstroke by defeating the champion and breaking his record in 24.88sec over 50 metres.

Lucy Finlay broke Sharron Davies's 400 metres medley record with a time of 4min 40.95sec, while James Hickman set a 200 metres butterfly record of 1min 56.37sec in the heats last night. Nick Gillingham set the fastest time in the world this year, 2min 09.44sec, at 200 metres breaststroke.

Swimmer jailed, page 3
Results, page 43

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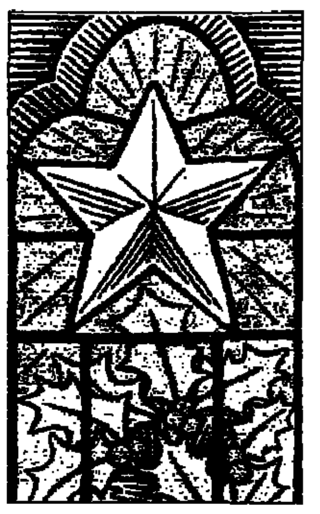
OUTDOORS

To the rescue of the red squirrel

Page 7

PLUS: The farm falling into the sea, page 6

CAROLS



Where to celebrate Christmas with carols

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WEEKEND

WEEKEND SATURDAY DECEMBER 16 1995

A LITTLE PEACE ON EARTH

By Walter Ellis

It was an occasion that would have put Ulster's hard men to shame. The nativity play put on this week by the pupils of All Children's Integrated School, Newcastle, Co Down, was a sentimental triumph. The boys and girls, aged from four to seven, who staged their 15-minute performance in the shadow of the fabled Mountains of Mourne, would have reduced even the sternest London critic to tears of sheer pleasure.

Mary, played by Jade Keogh, was immaculate — a model of restraint — ably supported by Reeve Whitson, as Joseph. Round the Holy Family hovered the angelic host, Orla O'Connor, Alex Henderson and Aine Fitzpatrick, while to either side stood the three kings, Ronan Jordan, Sarah Addis and Rory Hagan, and the shepherds, who included Rory's twin brother, Nathan, as well as Kerry Aspel, Nicola Strain, Johnny Cane and Arran Keogh.

What's in a name? it might be wondered. In Northern Ireland, everything. For here, with a simple roll call, joining Catholic names with those of their Protestant neighbours, we see a revolution in the making.

At one point, someone's halo slipped. At another, a narrator fluffed his lines and had to be prompted from the wings. It was clear, moreover, that the costume department had caused a major run on tea towels in the town. Yet nothing could take away from the effect.

"The little angels are mine," says Helen Craig, who teaches the reception class of four-year-olds. And so they were. Masked behind the principals, they sang as sweetly as any trained ensemble. "Sing a song for a baby," they bid us. "Sing a lullaby."

There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

Most touching of all, if they had only known it, was the fact that in "normal" circumstances, these children would not have been together to celebrate Christmas. In the everyday drama of Northern Ireland, the players are rigidly separated into Catholics and Protestants and grow up exclusively among their own kind. Just 26 of the province's schools are integrated and, though one or two more are added each year, a monumental shift of attitude is required of both sides if they are to ensure their children do not grow up as putative combatants, aware of the "other side" mainly as the enemy, out to rob them of their heritage.

"The leader of Judea, he had a great idea," the children in Newcastle sang. The idea, it turned out, was to tax all the people of the land. But in Northern Ireland there could be no greater idea than to bring its infants and young people together so that they can grow in understanding and accept each other's cultures without recrimination.

Nancy McHenry, the principal of All Children's, radiates optimism over the children in her charge. "One of the most rewarding things for me," she says, "is to watch children of different persuasions striking up deep bonds of friendship that I know will last them a lifetime." Parents in the district agree. This year, for the first time, the *little school, constructed mainly of* Portakabins overlooked by the massive granite bulk of Slieve Donard, is oversubscribed. The Department for Education in Northern Ireland is expected to fund new buildings soon that will allow for expansion,

Continued on page 3, col 1

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CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

DANCE

John Percival

TCHAIKOVSKY FOR CHRISTMAS: English National Ballet's Christmas presentation of *The Nutcracker* opens on the South Bank on Monday for a three-week season, in Ben Stevenson's popular production. That runs until January 6, after which the company will continue at the Festival Hall for a week, dancing Raisa Struchkova's Russian-style *Swan Lake*.
Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242), Dec 18, 8pm, then until Jan 13 (except Suns and Dec 25), 7.30pm, matinées each Saturday and Dec 21, 26-29, Jan 2 and 10, 2.30pm.

CINDERELLA: London City Ballet's new production of Prokofiev's best ballet opens in London today for a three-week Christmas and New Year run at Sadler's Wells, following its successful autumn tour. The choreographer is the young Royal Ballet dancer Matthew Hart, who coincidentally is featured in a half-hour documentary on LWT tomorrow. This is Hart's first shot at a three-act work, and he has sensibly been at pains to avoid too direct a comparison with the long-established Ashton version in which he has himself danced often at Covent Garden.
Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (0171-713 6000), until Jan 6 (except Sundays and Dec 25, 26), 7.30pm, matinées each Saturday and Dec 20, 26, 27, 29, 2.30pm.

ROCK

David Sinclair

PULP: From the moment they stepped in to replace the Stone Roses at this summer's Glastonbury Festival, Pulp have seemed like a world-class act. They were already riding high with *Common People*, one of the anthems of the 1990s, but seeing 80,000 people singing along to it seemed to infuse Jarvis Cocker with the unbridled sense of self-belief that can be the making of a true star.
Bridlington Spa (01262 678258), tonight; **Empress Ballroom**, Blackpool (01253 27786), Dec 17; **Bournemouth International Centre** (01202 297297), Dec 19; **Brixton Academy**, London SW9 (0171-924 9999), Dec 20, 21. Further dates begin at **Brighton Centre** (01273 202881), Feb 20 and continue until **Wembley Arena** (0181-900 1234), Mar 1.

SIMPLY RED: If there has been a changing of the guard in British pop this year, somebody forgot to tell Simply Red about it. A decade after his group's first hit, Mick Hucknall has blossomed into a major celebrity. And with sales of their latest album, *Life*, approaching the million mark in Britain, the awesome itinerary of their first tour for nearly three years, which includes 11 arena shows in London alone, tells its own story.
Wembley Arena (0181-900 1234), Dec 18-20, Jan 12-15; **NEC**, Birmingham (0121-780 4133), Jan 4-6, 8-10; **SECC**, Glasgow (0141-248 9999), Jan 17-19; **Nynex Arena**, Manchester (0161-930 8000), Jan 21-23; **Newcastle Arena** (0191-401 8000), Jan 25-27; **Sheffield Arena** (0114 256 5656), Jan 29-31; **London Arena** (0171-420 1212), Feb 2-5.

High life: Mick Hucknall

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

AIDA: Maybe not the greatest production of Verdi's warhorse, but an evening of four-star musical thrust. Sharon Sweet brings plushly upholstered tone to the title role, and Michael Sylvester fields a musicality rare among heroic tenors as Radames. Simon Estes's towering presence is perfect for Amonasro; Nina Terentieva is the steely Amneris. The conductor Daniele Gatti, a passionate advocate for one of the great operatic scores, presides over all.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), tonight, Tues 19, Fri 22, 7.30pm Ⓢ

LUISA MILLER: More Verdi — an operatic setting of Schiller, his favourite playwright after Shakespeare. The source is the "bourgeois tragedy" *Kabale und Liebe*, with innocent, Giselle-style maiden betrayed by haughty aristos and their henchmen. But the potential melodrama is tempered by the composer's burning compassion for the heroine and her poor father. Paul Daniel conducts Tim Albery's new production for Opera North, with Susannah Glanville as Luisa, Alan Opie as her father and Arthur Davies as the tenor.
Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0113-244 0971/245 9351), Fri 22, 7.15pm. Ⓢ

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

MAGENTA FESTIVAL: Some of the top choirs in the country have been assembled by the music agency Magenta for a Christmas Festival at St John's that starts tonight and continues nightly until next Saturday. Highlights include the London Adventist Chorale, the stunning gospel choir that won the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition last March (tonight); the choir of King's College Cambridge (tomorrow); and The Sixteen (Tues). Music ranges from the medieval and Renaissance (Mon, Fri) to the inevitable *Messiah* (two performances, Thur, Sat).
St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (0171-222 1061), 7.30pm.

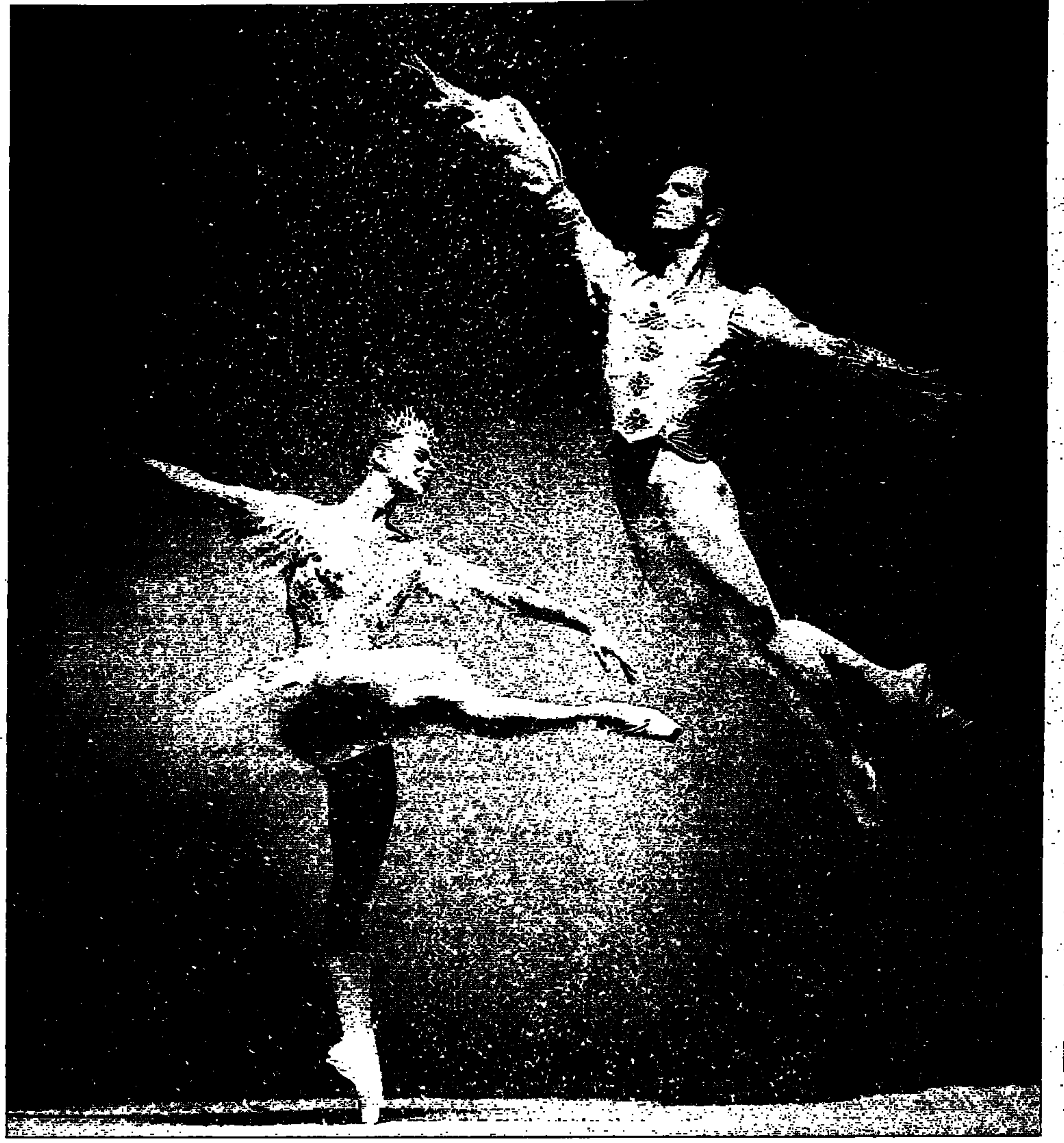
WIGMORE FESTIVITIES:
While other venues surrender completely to the ho-ho repertoire, Wigmore Hall retains the semblance of serious musicality. Well, almost. Monday's fare is a guitar spectacular with those old maestros of the fretboard, Carlos Bonell and John Williams, plus unspecified friends. On Tuesday the superb American soprano Barbara Bonney ranges in recital from Haydn to Wolf and Britten. And the Guildhall String Ensemble offers a programme of Christmas Classics, from Corelli to Grieg, on Thursday.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore St, London W1 (0171-935 2141), Mon, Thurs 7.30pm, Tues 8pm.

FILM

Geoff Brown

BABE (U): The best family film in a long age, starring a lovable piglet who does not follow the rules at Hoggett's farm and herds sheep by politely asking them to move. The animals are real, with a few animatronic ones, and they are given the power of speech. This may sound like a recipe for disaster, but this Australian adaptation of Dick King-Smith's book, *The Sheep-Pig*, never puts a trotter wrong. Sentiment is balanced by self-mockery; the humour is fresh; and director Chris Noonan, in an auspicious debut, serves up a wide range of visual treats.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

UNSTRUNG HEROES (PG): Diane Keaton's first cinema feature as director, a bittersweet drama about a 12-year-old's bizarre family life. When his mother is incapacitated by illness, the boy moves in with two crazy uncles, who spend their days nursing their paranoia and a collection of household junk. Richard LaGravenese's clever script firmly places this skewered family in the shadow of the repressed 1950s. The cast give a special glow to an unusual and attractive film.
MGM Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** Ⓢ (0171-435 3366)



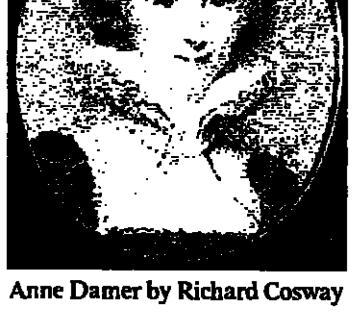
ANTHONY CRICKMAY

Ben Stevenson's much-loved *Nutcracker* returns for Christmas, with Agnes Oaks as the Snow Queen and Thomas Edur as the Prince

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

RICHARD AND MARIA COSWAY:. The show devoted to these two "Regency artists of taste and fashion", which opened in Edinburgh at Festival time, reappears in London transformed. Liberated from the intractable space it occupied in Edinburgh, it is also cut free (barring two token costumes at the entrance) from promotion of the Merchant-Ivory film *Jefferson in Paris*, in which the Cosways are prominent. It is now possible to see them in their proper historical context — as celebrities who were also artists. Richard, in particular, emerges as a much stronger artist than before, while his wife is given the footnote she deserves. His collecting activities and Maria's career as an educationist after his death in 1821 are fascinating in their own right, and a sense of proportion informs all.
National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (0171-306 0055). Mon-Sat 10am-5.45pm, Sun noon-5.45pm, until Feb 18. Closed Dec 24-26 and Jan 1. Admission £3, concessions £2.



Anne Damer by Richard Cosway

CODES AND MESSAGES: Despite prognostications that the new technology of fax and word processor would kill off all impulse, or even ability, to write by hand, paradoxically we are now in full spate of a hand-lettering revival. The idea of artistic calligraphy still suggests to many something old-world and arty-crafty, but the wealth of material in the Craft Council's new show soon banishes any such idea. Some of the lettering which has been created for books, architecture, advertisement, ceramics as well as for its own sake is firmly rooted in tradition, but much is startlingly innovative, and the overall effect could hardly be less quaint if it tried — and it probably did.
The Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 (0171-278 7700), Tues-Sat 11am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, until Feb 4.

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

THE WAY OF THE WORLD: Was there ever a better example of the triumph of clarity over excess than Geraldine McEwan's Lady Wishfort? Phyllida Lloyd's revival of Congreve, starting as it does in a non-Restoration casino and moving on to an art gallery, has its fussy aspects. But she gets a dry Millamant from Fiona Shaw, a warm Mirabell from Roger Allam and, from McEwan, an exquisite portrait of an ageing dame trying to rekindle the fires of youth.
Lyttelton, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Dec 18-20, 7.30pm; matinée, Dec 20, 2.15 pm. Continues in repertoire.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS: Here they are again, Toad, Rat, Mole et al, but played by different actors on a stage rather less adept at swivelling and throwing up exotic settings than at the Olivier. But Alan Bennett's lovingly accurate version of Grahame will still amuse the children. Jeremy Sinden is a nice smug Toad who wears everything down to his convict's arrows like a model on a Paris catwalk. Tickets during the school holidays are scarce.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655). Mon to Sat, 7.30pm; matinées, Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

EMIL NOLDE: Long regarded as an outstanding 20th-century German painter, Nolde has never been given a retrospective exhibition in Britain. So the Whitechapel Art Gallery's survey is a major event. At one time a member of the Nazi party, and then branded a degenerate by Hitler, Nolde is a complex man. But the strength of his passionate, brilliantly orchestrated pictures is obvious at once. Whether painting turbulent seascapes or frenzied dancers, he celebrates vitality with every brushmark. Although counted among the avant-garde, he looked beyond the modern world in search of a more elemental reality. In his landscapes, solitary houses are often threatened with obliteration by storms or the descent of night. But Nolde finds magnificence in a final flaring of the light, and excites with the sensuality of his colours.
Whitechapel Art Gallery, 80 Whitechapel High St, London E1 (0171-522 7878) until Feb 25.

JANE AND LOUISE WILSON: In their first solo London exhibition, these remarkable twins collaborate on an arresting installation. The immensity of the Chisenhale Gallery is darkened, but in the distance a dilapidated room with dingy wallpaper can be made out. Part of its side has been smashed in, and debris strewn across the floor. This damaged interior prompts us to ask a host of questions, and in a film called *Normapaths* some of the answers are given. Filling another corner of the room, two projections show a group of young women performing stunts in an empty brewery warehouse. At times they succumb to violence and become victims. But, more often, they survive even the most alarming stunts with fire, and revel in exhilarating displays of acrobatic energy.
Chisenhale Gallery, 64 Chisenhale Rd, E3 (0181-981 4518) until Dec 22.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

BOB WILBER: A consummate all-round reeds player and arranger, the American bandleader Bob Wilber is one of the pioneers of the so-called "jazz repertory" movement, which is dedicated to creating authentic performances of music from the vintage era. He opens his annual Christmas season with a nod in the direction of his mentor, the wonderful and totally unpredictable Sidney Bechet, while on Wednesday the focus will shift to the swing legacy of Benny Goodman. Trombonist Roy Williams and tenor man Tommy Whittle are due to make guest appearances later on in the week, and the closing night will see Kenny Baker joining in a salute to Louis Armstrong, Bix Beiderbecke and Bunny Berigan.
Pizza On The Park, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273) Mon 18 to Sat 23, 9.15pm and 11.15pm.

JACQUI AND ALEC DANKWORTH: The Cleo Laine-John Dankworth dynasty strikes again in this joint appearance by two of their offspring, both already seasoned hands in their respective fields. With his sister, Jacqui Dankworth, taking care of the vocals, the in-demand bass player, Alec, will lead a quartet which includes the graceful saxophonist Andy Panayi, Robin Aspland at the piano and Mark Taylor on drums.
Vortex Jazz Bar, Stoke Newington Church St, London N16 (0171-254 6516), tonight.

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◩ Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **ACCORDING TO HOYLE**: The tensions of today threaten a group of friends who have played poker together for 18 years. New play commissioned from William Gaminara, lively, and impeccably acted.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm Ⓢ

◩ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**. Revival of Ian Judge's popular but over-sweet production. Clive Francis plays Scrooge.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, most mats sold out. Until Jan 13 Ⓢ

■ **COMPANY**. Sheila Gish and Adrian Lester in the cast of 14 for Sondheim's bittersweet musical on love, relationships and staying single. Sam Mendes directs.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

☐ **DRACULA**: Christmas return for Phil Willmott's ingenious adaptation of the vampire classic: decadent, erotic, scarey. Late night start designed to screw up the tension by midnight.
BAC, Main House, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Tue-Sat, 10pm, Sun, 8pm Ⓢ

☐ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE**. Welcome transfer from the Donmar for Sam Mendes' radiant production: Zoe Wanamaker and Claire Skinner continue as mother and daughter; Ben Walden comes in as the new Tom.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, plus Dec 28 and Jan 4, 3pm

☐ **HOBSON'S CHOICE**: Frank Thornton in the title role of Harold Brighouse's warm-hearted comedy. Nichola McAuliffe and Graham Turner excellent as daughter and son-in-law.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

◩ **THE JUNGLE BOOK**: Tim Supple's vigorous, utterly enjoyable adaptation of three Mowgli stories. A refreshing relief from Disney cuteness.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Today, 2.30 and 7pm. Ring box office for schedule. Ⓢ
EL3 4

◩ **HYSTERIA**: Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali, in Terry Johnson's surreal, double award-winner. The funniest serious play in London.
Duke of Yorks, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

◩ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS**: Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

Sheila Gish as Joanne in Sondheim's *Company*

■ **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC**. Elegant and successful production by Sean Mathias of Sondheim's Swedish charmer. Judi Dench, Patricia Hodge, Sian Phillips and Lambert Wilson among the stars shining in the night.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm; Mon, 7.15pm. In rep Ⓢ

■ **JOLSON**. The highs and lows of the singer with with a monster ego. Brian Conley belts out the songs enjoyably and Sally Ann Triplett is an impressive Ruby Keeler.
Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

☐ **THE MASTER BUILDER**. Peter Hall's sexually understated production. Alan Bates the smoldering hero; fine performances by Gemma Jones and Victoria Hamilton.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

☐ **PRIVATES ON PARADE**: Tony Slattery plays the irrepressibly camp entertainer in Peter Nichols's comedy with music, set at an Army Camp Party in Malaya in 1948. Paul Clayton directs.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Now previewing, 7.45pm. Opens Mon, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

☐ **RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB**: Another Donmar transfer. English Touring Theatre's production of Jonathan Harvey's thoughtful and passionate play set in an Easy London bedsit where most of the characters have love troubles.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-839 4488). Now previewing, 8pm. Opens Dec 19, 7pm

◩ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE**: A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe, Malcolm McKee.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm

☐ **SOUP**: One-man-show with a score of characters, mostly homeless, by Michael Mears, who wrote and performed the excellent *Tomorrow we Do The Sky*. Winner of an Edinburgh Fringe First.
Lyric Studio, King Street, Hammersmith W6 (0181-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm

◩ **SOUTH PACIFIC**. Patti Boulaye plays Bloody Mary in Phil Willmott's spirited and fun production of the Rodgers & Hammerstein tropical evergreen.
Drill Hall, Chenies Street, WC1 (0171-637 8270). Tue-Sat, and Jan 7 and 14, 7.30pm.

◩ **THREE TALL WOMEN**. Maggie Smith, Sara Kestelman and Samantha Bond in Edward Albee's fascinating play about the adoptive mother who withered his childhood. Final week.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Today, 3pm and 8pm.

◩ **THE TOWER**: Alexandre Dumas' romantic melodrama, with Sinead Cusack as a scheming Queen Marguerite, and Adrian Dunbar as the agent of her downfall. Howard Davies directs a version by Charles Wood.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Ⓢ

☐ **TRAINSPOTTING**. Irving Walsh's blackest of black comedies, set on the wild side of Edinburgh: drugs, danger and vomit. Limited London season after record-breaking tour.
Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (0171-836 6111). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 5pm.

☐ **WHAT A SHOW!** Musical spectacular revolving around Tommy Steele, who sings, dances, grins and remembers the old days.
Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5987). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

LONG RUNNERS

■ **Blood Brothers**, with David Cassidy, Phoenix (0171-867 1044) ■ **Buddy** Strand (0171-930 8800) ◩ **Communicating Doors** Gielgud (0171-494 5530) ☐ **Dead Guilty** Apollo (0171-494 5070) ■ **Five Guys Named Moe** Albery (0171-369 1730) ◩ **Indian Ink** Aldwych (0171-416 6003) ■ **Oliver!** Palladium (0171-494 5020) ☐ **Starlight Express** Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) ◩ **The Woman In Black** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre. **Availability at time of going to press; check box office.**

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BABE** (U) See Critics' Choice, above

LA BELLE ET LA BETE (PG) Revival of Cocteau's enchanting version of *Beauty and the Beast*, with Jean Marais and Josette Day
Everyman Ⓢ (0171-435 1525) **NFT** (0171-928 3232) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

THE SHOOTER (18): US marshal (Dolph Lundgren) comes to Prague to prevent an assassination. Video fodder, directed by Ted Kotcheff
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **THE SWAN PRINCESS** (U): Wizard threatens wedding of Prince Derek and Princess Odette. Bland animated fairy tale. Director, Richard Rich
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **THREE WISHES** (PG) Hobo spreads wisdom in the American suburbs. Dawdling romantic fantasy directed by Martha Coolidge, with Patrick Swayze and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE TIE THAT BINDS** (18) Nasty thriller about child adoption, with Keith Carradine and Daryl Hannah. Director, Wesley Strick.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT** (15): What happens when the widowed President gets a girlfriend? Not much, even with Michael Douglas and Annette Bening. Director, Rob Reiner
Empire Ⓢ (0171-437 1234) **MGM Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

ANGELS AND INSECTS (18): Procreative games in Victorian England. Handsome but stiff drama, with Mark Rylance, Patsy Kensit and Kristin Scott Thomas. Director, Philip Haas
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **MGM Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030)

THE BROTHERS McMULLEN (15): Irish-Americans agonise over love, commitment and beer. Modest feature debut by writer-director-actor Edward Burns
Gate Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520)

◆ **CRIMSON TIDE** (15) Antique heroics in a nuclear submarine, with Gene Hackman and Denzel Washington. Director, Tony Scott.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **DR. JEKYLL AND MS. HYDE** (12): Brash and unfunny comic update of Stevenson's story, with Tim Daly and Sean Young. Director, David Price
UCI Whiteleys Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

ELISA (15): Overwrought French tale of a tearaway kid who seeks out her father. With Vanessa Paradis, Gérard Depardieu. Director, Jean Becker.
MGMs: Panton Street (0171-930 0631) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470)

FARINELLI (15) The life of an 18th-century castrato. Lots of opera, sex and clothes, but Gérard Corbiau's film only scratches the material's potential
MGM Tottenham Ct Rd (0171-636 6148) **Minema** (0171-235 4225) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233)

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12) Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour, with Sean Bean, Izabella Scorupco and Famke Janssen. Director, Martin Campbell
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (15): Actors struggle to mount *Hamlet*. Over-manic comedy from Kenneth Branagh, with Michael Maloney, Joan Collins.

Farmer Hoggett and Babe. See Choice, above

MGM Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

LAND AND FREEDOM (15). Ken Loach's powerful Spanish Civil War drama, with Ian Hart, Rosana Pastor
Curzon Phoenix (0171-369 1721) **Odeon Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

LIVING IN OBLIVION (15) Trials and tribulations of making a low-budget movie. Delicious comedy from Tom DiCillo.
MGMs: Panton St (0171-930 0631)

◆ **MURDER IN THE FIRST** (15): Flashy but absorbing Alcatraz drama, with Kevin Bacon, Christian Slater, Gary Oldman.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (U): John Ford's wonderful 1946 western about Wyatt Earp, with Henry Fonda, Linda Darnell and Victor Mature
Renoir (0171-837 8402)

◆ **THE SANTA CLAUSE** (U): Divorced dad becomes the new Santa. Broad family comedy with a human face, featuring Tim Allen. Director, John Pasquin.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

SHANGHAI TRIAD (15): Enjoyably opulent gangster saga from Chinese director Zhang Yimou. With Gong Li.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722)

SISTER MY SISTER (15): Nancy Meckler's modest chamber piece about a stifling French household. With Joely Richardson, Jodhi May, Julie Walters.
MGMs: Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Tottenham Court Rd** (0171-636 6148)

◆ **TO DIE FOR** (15): Delicious social satire about a television weather girl's murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant directs Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon.
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

TO WONG FOO THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, JULIE NEWMAR (PG): New York drag queens charm the mid-West. Cosy comedy drama with Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes, John Leguizamo.
Plaza Ⓢ (0171-437 1234)

A WALK IN THE CLOUDS (PG): Vacuous 1940s romance with Keanu Reeves as a returning soldier who finds a new life in California's vineyards.
Warner Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

'Children must know the story of Christmas'

TRADITIONAL NATIVITY

BEFORE the start of her school's nativity play, Joan Wade, the headmistress, put the assembled parents in their place. If any of them fell off their perches, she said, any bodily damage "is on your insurance rather than mine".

With that happy reminder, the tape-recorded carols were switched off and Miss Lovegrove started playing the untraditional electric piano. *The Animals' Nativity*, performed by the four and five-year-olds at The Gateway School in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, was under way.

The cast filed in, dressed as angels, kings, shepherds and animals. Someone at little William Sendell's home had made him a magnificent cutout ox's head, though he had a problems with the peepholes.

To ensure that every child could have a part, the cast included three innkeepers and five angels, and each king had a page. There were even camels (with humps) and an ass (without the stubborness).

Knowing parents who have laboured into the small hours making angel wings, I took particular interest in the assembled host. They showed little sign of regimentation. Some had wings, some didn't. Some had haloes, some didn't. But all, in their white robes, looked thoroughly angelic.

The most serene member of the cast was, appropriately, Mary. Jennifer Brier maintained the dignity required of the mother of God and merely gazed at the 75 adults squatting uncomfortably on the gym benches. None fell off. Their insurance was safe.

Sitting in the front row, however, were two very nervous teachers, who spent the entire performance directing the cast. The songs were upbeat and, although cameras were banned during the performance, camcorders whirred. At the end of the play, the cast sang the closing song again for photographic purposes. Such was the barrage of camera flashes that every child on stage must have felt like the Princess of Wales at a film premiere.

BECAUSE the school has more than 300 children, aged from of two and a half to 13, there were at least three nativity plays of different strains performed that day.

The one I attended was the most traditional and, though the school is non-denominational, Mrs Wade says that "because we are a Christian country it is important that children know the story of the Christian religion".

GUY WALTERS

JOHN POTTER

Natalie Montieth (Sugar Plum Fairy), Kierean Paul and David Walker, stars of St Andrew's school's *Nutcracker*

And lo, a show was born

MULTICULTURAL CHRISTMAS EVENT

So how closely, I asked the headmaster of St Andrew's primary school in Birmingham on Wednesday as 200 of his teenier pupils began filling the stage, will you be following Tchaikovsky's original *Nutcracker*? "I think the adverb that springs to mind," Max Fawcett replied, "is 'loosely'."

There have been many interpretations of the *Nutcracker*, which has become a popular Christmas perennial: Ashton's; Balanchine's; Rudolf Nureyev's Freudian staging for the Royal Swedish Ballet; and Baryshnikov's serious rendition for American Ballet Theatre. Could any have been quite as entertaining or as charming as the definitive St Andrew's interpretation? Seems very unlikely.

It was the teachers of St Andrew's, which clings to the skirt of Birmingham City football ground, who came up with the idea of performing the *Nutcracker*. They thought it more suitable than a traditional nativity play given the racial and religious mix of the school, which lies in Bordesley, a still-raw inner-city regeneration area. The school's roll is just over 40 per cent white, just under 30 per cent Asian, which includes Chinese and Singaporean, and 30 per cent Afro-Caribbean. The catchment area is predominantly working class, if that is still an apt term for a region where one in three is jobless.

"We've done traditional nativity plays in the past," Mr Fawcett said, "but we're getting more and more children from different cultures, so we decided to choose something that appeals to everybody. We try to appreciate each other's religions. So when it's Eid, a Moslem festival, we try to make a celebration out of that. The same with the Hindu festival of Diwali."

Including the nursery class, the school has about 400 children. The older ones did *The Wizard of Oz* this year, leaving the three to sevens to attack the *Nutcracker*.

At 30p for a programme, which included tea and mince pies after the show, compared to the £30 or so that Birmingham Royal Ballet was charging for *exactly the same ballet* at the nearby Birmingham Hippodrome, it didn't take much to figure out who got the better deal.

The adoring 200-strong audience (there were two performances to fit all the parents into the school hall-cum-gym-cum-canteen) showed no sign of missing the Three Wise Men or Mary or Bethlehem, and were willingly transported instead to a scene "set in Germany on Christmas Eve a long time ago".

Most members of the relaxed cast entered the stage and waved to key sections of the audience with the practised ease of Bruce Forsyth at the London Paladium.

The crowded dance sequences — which ensured that every member of the school got a spell of thespian glory — were so expertly arranged, without a single child colliding into another, that the staffroom choreographers of St Andrew's should be hired as traffic controllers on the M25.

The costumes, too, were inspired, particularly for the Snowflake, Spanish, Egyptian, Chinese and Russian dance sequences — each performed by a different class. Only a really nosy eagle would have spotted that the flowing black skirts of the Spanish senõritas, for example, were crafted from plastic binliners.

JOE JOSEPH

JAMES MORGAN

Budding stars at the Barbara Speake Stage School: (l to r) Erica Hunter, Chloe Watson, Phylicia Dyer, Alex Bullock

Small miracle in Acton

STAGE SCHOOL NATIVITY

THE sight of a five-year-old girl performing a belly-dance in a grass skirt is not one normally associated with nativity plays. But then the Barbara Speake Stage School, founded 50 years ago in Acton, west London, is not a normal school. It has a full academic curriculum but its pupils also spend time each day doing ballet, tap or modern dancing.

The performers of *Christmas Around the World*, an "exploration" of Christmas in other countries, are tomorrow's stars of stage, screen and catwalk. The school boasts some impressive alumni: Naomi Campbell, Brian Conley and Phil Collins all found roles in the annual nativity play. Many pupils in this year's play have already worked professionally.

Nativity plays are often staged in school halls or gyms. At the Barbara Speake school the pupils, aged from four to 16, perform in a proscenium arch theatre, with wings and full lighting. The school keeps plenty of costumes, thus saving a last-minute construction of angel's wings on the parental kitchen table.

Christmas Around The World tells the tale of one of Santa's helpers leading a group of children on a world tour by magic sleigh. They visit, among other countries, Poland, a South Sea island (with belly-dancer), Canada and Mexico. Joseph and Mary's arrival at the inn is buried in the trip to Mexico and "little baby Jesus" is given, according to some Latin American legend, a guitar, a poncho, some dried fruit and a 99p box of chilli con carne.

The performers, mostly primary school age, exuded confidence. But the key difference between this production and that at a non-stage school was the audience reaction. Here, the parents didn't laugh at the performances in the usual benevolent way but in genuine appreciation of a witty and polished performance.

Barbara Speake was tremendously proud. The children had rehearsed since the beginning of term and had learnt about other cultures. There is, of course, a video of the production on sale.

GUY WALTERS

Cover image of All Children's Integrated School nativity play by CRISPIN RODWELL

Jade Keogh, as Mary; Reeve Whitson, Joseph; and Anne Fitzpatrick, as the angel. They are all four years old

CRISPIN RODWELL

A united front at All Children's Integrated School

Continued from page 1

while next door Shimna College, an integrated comprehensive school, is about to complete the first term of its second year.

All Children's was a parents' initiative. Some even took out second mortgages to finance the building. The Government, however, has begun to look fondly on such schemes, and today the school gets full government funding.

Problems remain. Protestant clergy in the Newcastle area are happy to come into the school to provide religious instruction to their flock. But the Catholic church, mindful of its pervasive role in Irish education, does not yet permit the parish priest to enter the building.

Those who continue to harbour doubts about the wisdom of educating Catholic and Protestant children together would have had all such doubts dispelled last week in Newcastle. "Imagine if you can a far off distant land," the infants sang, inviting us to consider a birth in Palestine. But that land could be Northern Ireland, and its saviour could be the one who finally breaks down the barriers between its young people and causes them to be raised as one, united community.

Ruth Gledhill recalls last year's Christmas at Westminster Cathedral

A thousand shining candles

AFTER a period which had seen numerous conversions to Catholicism, and which was to see 11 ordinations this year of Anglican clergy to the Roman Catholic priesthood, a sense of triumphalism could have been expected at Westminster Cathedral's Christmas Celebration last year. But there was none. In a long service in which time seemed to pass more quickly than usual, Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, gave us an intense experience of the spiritual meaning of Christmas.

Cardinal Hume, looking seasonal in red, white and gold, entered the cathedral with the Duchess of Kent. Also in the congregation was the Duchess of Norfolk, the chairwoman of Help the Hospices, the charity which benefited from the service last year. Westminster Cathedral, where 6,000 people a week come to worship, was lit by thousands of candles and had Christmas trees lit in the sanctuary.

For me, the organ recital was the high point, and it concluded with Respighi's Prelude in A Minor on a theme from Bach. "He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he," the choir sang, leading us into a hymn adapted from a 13th-century plainchant, before we heard a reading from the prophet Ezekiel. "I saw the glory of the God of Israel approaching from the east," a woman read. "A sound came with it like the sound of the ocean, and the earth shone with his glory."

This cathedral, which is used at this time of year by thousands as a meditative retreat from the Christmas crush, has been celebrating the centenary of the laying of its foundation stone in 1895. It was not complete when its architect, J.F. Bentley, died in 1902 and, in an appropriate modern parable of the work of God on earth, is unfinished. Bentley's gold mosaics have yet to appear in the brick domes. Part of the centenary plans are to continue work on the interior. Ten new pieces of marble have been erected during the centenary year. A £10 million fundraising campaign was launched earlier this year to support the future work of the cathedral.

Many worshippers prefer the cathedral as it is. With the homeless lying around its precincts begging for funds, a glittering Byzantine interior might seem less appropriate than the current juxtaposition of gloom and warmth.

"O little town of Bethlehem," we sang. The advantage of this service was that the congregation knew all the carols. We heard the reading of the Annunciation from Luke's gospel, and then the choir, unaccompanied, sang a beautiful Basque carol, *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*. We returned to the familiar again with the Sans Day carol, *Now the Holly Bears a Berry as White as any Milk*, another reading from Luke and *Once in Royal David's City*. A popular selection of carols followed: *See Amid the Winter's Snow, In the Bleak Midwinter, O Come All Ye Faithful* and *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*.

Cardinal Hume ended the service with prayers. He urged reconciliation: "Bring together all nations into a New Man; destroy the barriers that sin creates between people." He prayed for the hospice movement, "especially those no longer able to look after themselves, perhaps approaching the last step of their pilgrimage journey in life." Hospices were "one of the great indicators that there is much good left in our society". He gave the blessing: "May he who is strong, who wished to be born weak as a child in order to give us strength, bless you," he said.

The service, however, was not totally removed from Mammon. The programme reminded us that many of the carols sung by the choir were for sale on a recording, *Adeste Fideles*, in the cathedral bookshop, along with a video of the history of the cathedral and highlights of the Pope's visit in 1982.

Finally, Cardinal Hume thanked the person who would have the task of putting out the candles.

● *This year's Christmas celebration takes place at Westminster Cathedral, Ambrosden Avenue, London SW1 (0171-828 4732) on December 19 at 7.30pm.*

AT YOUR SERVICE

A five-star guide

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SERMON:
A meditation on life with and without God. ★★★★★

LITURGY:
Lessons and carols. ★★★★

MUSIC:
The Southern Sinfonietta, Gerard Skinner on the organ and the choir under James O'Donnell. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH:
Celebratory. ★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE:
Nearby Cardinal Hume Centre provides accommodation for the homeless over Christmas. Coffee and biscuits served on Sundays. ★★★★

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You might think such an amazing technological breakthrough by Citizen is a wind up. It's not.

CITIZEN
TIME WELL SPENT

When it comes to creating eye-catching Christmas displays, designers are already thinking about 1996

In a window wonderland

Mike Hopwood's Christmas is already over. As design studio manager at Selfridges in Oxford Street, once the Christmas windows went in on November 9 he started planning for December 1996. "In September I was in Prague looking at glass decorations for next year," he says.

Christmas window-dressing is a big production number for many stores, and seen as vital to tempting shoppers. Yet for some stores it is the only time of year when their windows are free of merchandise. Fenwick in Newcastle upon Tyne hasn't put goods in its Christmas windows for 25 years. Harvey Nichols left its windows fronting Knightsbridge empty last Christmas and gave the cost of dressing them to charities, including Tommy's Campaign, a national charity funding research into premature birth.

'Our windows are meant to stop people. It's a cheap way to advertise'

IMAGE

Site for sore eyes: At Christmas, Fenwick in Newcastle banishes merchandise from its windows. This year's theme, Santa's New Store, reflects the building work taking place at Fenwick

Long-term preparation for festive windows and store interiors often involves a worldwide operation. Selfridges turned to the United States, Germany and the Far East for many of its decorative items, including 32,080 artificial poinsettia heads and 2,220 fabric red roses. The store considered buying 200 red, artificial Christmas trees from China or Germany, but settled on Wales instead.

Harrods in Knightsbridge went to the Philippines for its Christmas tree ornaments and to Germany for lights and artificial greenery. Fenwick in Newcastle had its seven animated windows built by a German company, as it has for the past ten years. Fenwick's theme this year is a building site, Santa's New Store, an odd choice unless you know that the store has been undergoing building work for some time. There are plenty of teddy bears in hard hats, Colin the Crane, two kangaroos who have popped out of the ground because builders have dug too deep, and many other characters to keep children entranced.

Fenwick's Christmas windows have become something of an institution in the North East. Previous themes have included Alice in Wonderland, Pinocchio and Treasure Island. "They create a huge amount of goodwill," says the store's spokeswoman Jill Wilson. No formal research is done into how successful specific themes are. "You just get a sense if they've worked," Mrs Wilson says. One that wasn't so popular was a space theme in 1983, but everyone loved the singing Christmas tree four years ago.

This year there are locally-recorded Christmas carols, songs and a narration on a 13-minute loop for the windows, the soundtrack of which is sold for £2.50, with all the profits going to charity.

Fenwick's lack of window merchandise is the opposite of Harrods' policy. "How could we not talk about the great breadth of merchandise that we have?" asks Ken Smart, director of artistic design.

With 72 windows and a store perimeter of just over 500 metres, he and his design team of 84 have plenty to do. This year's theme is The Splendour of Christmas, in burgundy and gold. "It's very opulent, very over the top," Mr Smart says. The front windows are domestic room sets, including white wood panelling with gold leaf mouldings, and burgundy and gold-leaf floors. Every department is represented, and the tenth anniversary of the Harrods Christmas teddy bear is acknowledged, with 4,000 dotted around the store and windows.

MELVYN VINCENT

Red carpet treatment: A family affair for Selfridges

Mr Smart was ready last January to start designing and buying decorations. By April the designs were complete, and a Welsh company started building the backdrops and floors, finishing in August. The sets were trucked to London. Installation and dressing began in October and took about a month.

"The most important thing for me are the standards," says Mr Smart, who has worked at Bloomingdale's and Macy's in the United States. "Are the mannequins perfectly styled and positioned? Is the lighting right? Is the paint applied properly? If the standards aren't there the window isn't good." As for the cost, he would not go into details, but says the largest part of his budget is used at Christmas.

Selfridges has had Christmas-themed windows for about 25 years. Last year's was a Pre-Raphaelite Sleeping Beauty, before that Alice in Wonderland, Victorian Christmas cards and Wind in the Willows. Last year most windows were merchandise free. This year all 20 fronting Oxford Street have goods in them, mostly red in line with the theme Dreaming of a Red Christmas, showing a family — Bertie, Georgina, their children, Hugh and Tilly, and their guests. The store ordered six kilometres of red velvet for the store interior and windows to complement the merchandise. Most of the window sets were built at Selfridges' workshops in Paddington, central London.

"You can guarantee a winner if you do a Nativity window," Mr Hopwood says, "but we like to do something different each year. That is why we are having merchandise in our front windows this year."

The Knightsbridge windows at Harvey Nichols have huge sheets of plate glass with blue, red and yellow stars on them and just two or three mannequins in each, displaying men's and women's fashion. Seven thousand milk bottles were ordered to decorate the store — 1,500 gathered together to form the five giant glass stars in different colours in the Sloane Street windows.

'Themes create an enormous amount of goodwill'

Harvey Nichols doesn't have traditional Christmas windows. "It's not our style," says Howard Tong, visual merchandise controller. "Simplicity works for us. Our windows are meant to stop people and grab their attention. It's the cheapest form of advertising."

When Christmas is over a new life can await the store's window schemes. "Clubs and restaurants have been known to buy them," Mr Tong says, "and sometimes members of the public ask for an item from the window."

Meanwhile, plans for next year's Christmas window displays are well under way. Ken Smart at Harrods has already sketched some possible designs, but he's not saying any more. What colour Christmas the shops are dreaming of for 1996 is still under wraps.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

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هكذا من الأصل

Presents for under a fiver to keep the children amused and earn you extra time in bed on Christmas Day

Toys to shake, rattle and roll

OPENING a bulging Christmas stocking is one of the great thrills of Christmas Day. Originality — and an encyclopaedic knowledge of playground fads and fancies — are the keys to happiness for school-age children.

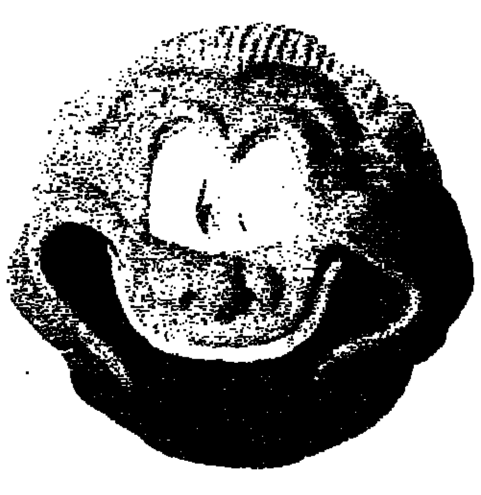
If this is baby's first Christmas, soft toys such as W.H. Smith's Bugsie bright red ladybug and friendly snail (£1.99 each) and Marks & Spencer's bunny, puppy, and piggy (£5 each) are just the right size for tiny fingers to hold, but too big to swallow. For more active play, Boots has a plastic multicoloured rattle called Mr Noisy Spinner (£2.25), which has a very loud rattle. The Topsy Turvy Teds are tiny teddies in plastic bubbles which spin inside when rolled on the floor or dunked in the bath (£3.99, Boots). The Hug a Bug has a squeaky head, rattle, crinkly body, and three teething rings (£4.99, Early Learning Centre).

The gift possibilities explode as older children improve their motor skills. Crafty kids aged seven and up will enjoy the John Adams Trading Company kits (£2.95, John Lewis) that have all the materials for making woven friendship bracelets and hair wraps, lapel badges, secret messages, and fold-it-yourself fun fliers. Craft gifts, for six years upwards, from W.H. Smith, include kits for creating six colourful lapel badges (£2.49), a felt tiger and toothy croc glove-puppets (£2.49), and a black kitty or pink bunny mask (£2.99). Wikki Stix (four years upwards) are mesmerising multi-coloured waxy sticks the length of a pipe-cleaner that are bendy, sticky, and environmentally friendly to boot (99p/12 pack to £4.99/48 pack).

Curly self-tying trainer and smart winter boot laces are big this year, in gold and white (£2.99, Harrods) or various colours (£3.95, John Lewis). Personal grooming items are also popular, such as faux ruby or diamanté hair slides (£4.95 for four, Selfridges); Barbie lip gloss palate and applicator, hair clip, clip-on earrings, and strip of jewellery in a pink heart-shaped case (£4.98, exclusive to Boots); Puppy in my Pocket bath gel (£1.99, Superdrug) and Forever Friends toothbrush and holder (£2.99, Superdrug).

New to Britain, Liddle Kiddles, 2in-high dolls come with hair that can be combed, and a series of outfits. The collectable Kiddles come in lockets, clip-on or strap-on for attaching to belt or bag, with a hairbrush and an extra present such as a plastic ring or pretend earrings (£4).

Boys of a certain age (five years and up) crave gifts with a gruesome touch, such as Squeezable Flying Screamers with hideous faces that shriek when thrown (£2.50, Harrods); creepy-looking Tumble Bugs that stick to the wall, then wriggle and slither down (£2.99 for two, Harrods); and man-shaped Wall Walkers that do the same (£1.45 for two, John Lewis). Wind-up Backyard Monsters are sci-fi bugs that crawl among the wrapping debris when you wind them up (£1.45, John Lewis). For outdoors only, the Spudmatic Combi-Pistole (seven and up) shoots water, corks, caps, or potato plugs (£2.50, Harrods). If you insist on trying to clean up their act, you could slip a bottle of Tarantula bath goo, Frog Spawn bubble bath (£1.99 each, Superdrug) or Sumo-shaped soap (£2, Boots) into their stockings.



Above: flying screamer, £2.50; tumblebug (inset), £2.99 for two, both Harrods

SOME of the season's most-appreciated stocking fillers are updated versions of gifts that Father Christmas left for their parents. Silly putty, still in its original egg, used to sport an unhealthy Anglo-Saxon flesh tone, but now comes in a multitude of neon colours (£1.45, John Lewis). For the vroom-vroom set, a selection of miniature Matchbox motors is a treat (99p, Woolworths), as are chunky painted wooden trucks and buses (double-decker bus, £1.99; articulated lorry, £2.99, Early Learning Centre), and Thomas the Tank Engine rolling stock such as George, Ben, and Harold (£3.99 to £4.99 each, Woolworths). The Professional YoYo for juniors (£1.95, Harrods) has instructions on the back of the card for sleeping, loop the loop, and walking the dog. For future Top Gunners, Super Stunter Planes return to you when you throw them (£2.50 for three, Harrods). A tiny key-chain Etch A Sketch, which bills itself as the World's Favourite Drawing Toy, will keep the children absorbed for hours (£2.50, Harrods).

Some newer classics include selections of slammers (the 1990s version of tiddlywinks), the game that has taken over playgrounds from Kirkcaldy to Kent (49p to £3.95, John Lewis); or the similar and equally fascinating Pogs (£2.99, Woolworths); and Happy Cubes, squishy six-piece 3D puzzles that make a cube or combine to build even larger boxes (£1.95, John Lewis). Crayons now come in an unheard-of variety, such as glitter washable or changeable Crayola Crayons (£1.99 for a box of eight big ones, Woolworths) and washable mini-stampers — Crayola crayons that draw like broad felt-tips, but stamp out shapes such as paw-prints, stars, and smily faces when you press the tip down flat (£2.99 for eight, Woolworths). Funtime's crayons in the shapes of circus animals have holes to fit on to toddler fingertips like finger puppets (£1.95 for eight, John Lewis).

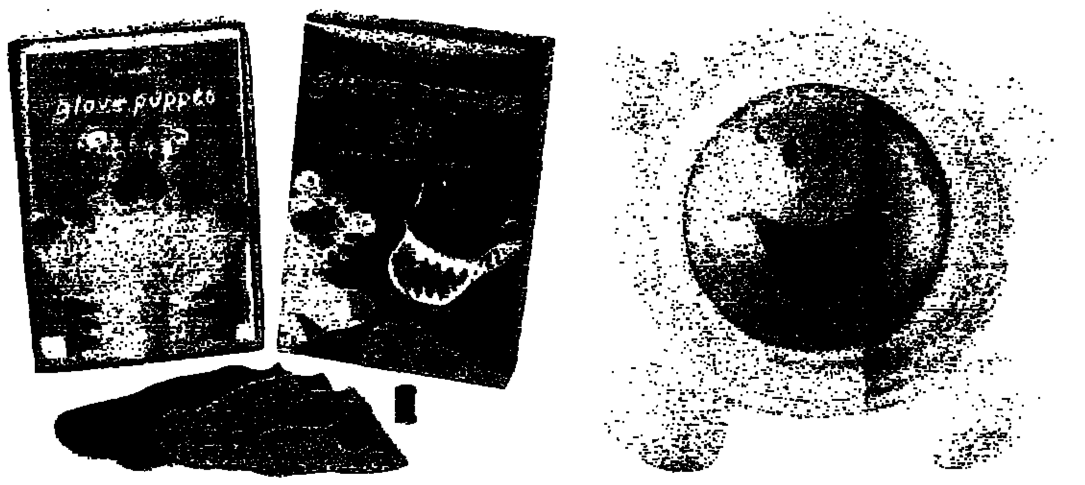
Save the Children has produced a cassette of children's songs from around the world, for any age, (£1.99, Early Learning Centre). Books make great stocking-stuffers, especially as you can bend them inside the stocking to stop children guessing the other presents by feel. Mr Men and Little Miss books (for two years upwards) by Roger Hargreaves (£1.25, Dillons and Woolworths) focus on people's peculiarities, such as *Little Miss Scatterbrain*, and now come in French: for example *Madame Bonheur* (£1.99, Dillons).

Sainsbury's children's books include puzzle books (three to five and four to six years) from 99p; a series of natural history titles produced by the BBC (four to seven years) for £1.50, and an excellent *Book of Children's Cookery* (£3.45; four to 11 years) by Caroline Waldegrave and Roz Denny.

Last of all, no stocking is complete without chocolate. Marks & Spencers has a selection to ruin their breakfast: a Santa tin containing foiled milk chocolate balls (£1.99), a red sack filled with ten Santa figures (£2.99); chocolate snowman; Santa or penguin lollies (49p each) and a Soldier Keepsake Box that holds foil-wrapped white chocolate soldiers (£3.49).

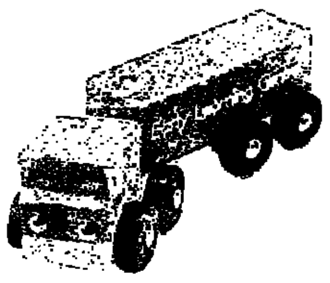
NANCY PATTON WOOD

Topsy-turvy teds, £3.99, from Boots. The tiny teds spin in their plastic bubble when rolled on the floor

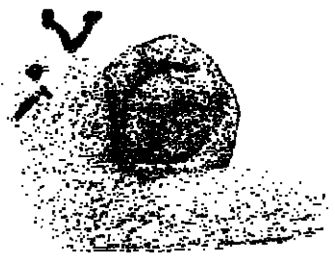


Tiger and crocodile glove puppets, £2.49, from W.H. Smith; Mr Noisy Spinner, £2.25, from Boots

Forever Friends toothbrush and holder, £2.99, Superdrug



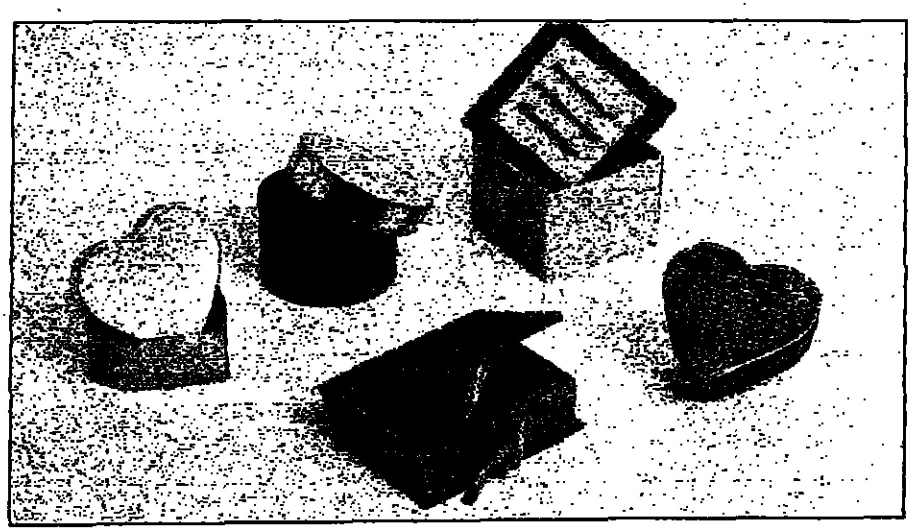
Articulated lorry, £2.99, from the Early Learning Centre



Friendly snail, £1.99 from W.H. Smith

Where to buy

☐ Boots: 0115 9506111 for nearest branch.
☐ Dillons: 0121-703 8000 for nearest branch.
☐ Early Learning Centre: 01793 831300 for nearest branch.
☐ Harrods: Knightsbridge, London SW3 (0171-730 1234).
☐ John Lewis: 0171-629 7711 for nearest store.
☐ Liddle Kiddles: 0800 585108 for stockists.
☐ Marks & Spencer: 0171-935 4422 for nearest branch.
☐ Sainsbury: 0800 636262 for nearest branch.
☐ Selfridges: Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-629 1234).
☐ Superdrug: 0181-684 7000 for nearest branch.
☐ W.H. Smith: 01793 616161 for nearest branch.
☐ Wikki Stix: The Green Board Game Company Ltd; 34 Amersham Hill Drive, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP13 6QY (01494 538999; fax 01494 538646).
☐ Woolworths: 0171-262 1222 for nearest branch.



Boxing clever: Paperchase's designs in gold, or with a twig-lid, or disguised as a book

Box of festive delights

WRAPPING presents is one of the great challenges of Christmas. Infuriatingly sensible people will have it all done by late August; the rest of us will be panicking on the 24th, losing the scissors, Sellotape sticking to the wrong bits, as we wrestle with a mug tree and not quite enough paper, swearing in a most unfestive fashion while trying to wrest the ribbon from the cat.

This year the fury factor can be halved by putting your presents, wrapped in coloured tissue paper, in one of the many boxes now available: professional, stress-free and pretty. They may cost a bit more than buying six sheets of paper from a market stall, but your sanity will be saved, at least until the turkey fails to defrost.

Paperchase is the best one-stop source. Its shiny gold boxes come in sizes to fit everything from a ring (1½in sq, 40p) to a dressing gown (17½in x 12in x 2½in, £3.99), and gold is the colour for this year. Other gold offerings for small presents include: gold hearts (3½in x 3in x 1½in); claret or black boxes with "gold leaf" lids (3in diameter, 2½in deep, £2.50); and star-shaped boxes (£4.99). Also look at natural unpainted cardboard boxes with twigs on their lids (3½in sq x 2½in deep, £3.99) and the scarlet silk "Book" box (5½in x 3in x 1¼in, £5.25) — a present to contain a present. There is even a simple black box with unpainted natural cardboard lid big enough to hold a small chandelier (14½in x 14½in x 10in, £6.99).

John Lewis stores also have a good range, such as the simple dragged-look Red Mirage (13in x 7in x 5in, £5.50), which is ideal for bottles; the contemporary Navy Blue with impressionistic gold stars (16in x 12in x 3in, £6.50), useful for men's gifts such as shirts or scarves, and the traditional Red Macintosh Tartan (10in x 5in x 2in, £2.95), a pretty way to package gloves or lingerie.

> Why wrangle with wrapping paper?

MARKS & SPENCER also has attractive gold gift boxes this year in sizes to fit most clothes, from knickers to bulky jumpers (from £1.50).

The prettiest children's range I have seen comes from Selfridges and features traditional toys set against a bright blue background. Prices for these boxes start at £5.95, and they are good enough to be kept in the nursery and re-used through the coming year.

STEPHANIE LEWIS

● *Paperchase: 0171-580 8496 for branches. The numbers for Selfridges, Marks & Spencer and John Lewis are listed in the box above right.*

Anglers can't fail to fall for the bait

Gifts for fishing enthusiasts

MAY VINCE knows what she wants for Christmas. All anglers do. The country's three million enthusiasts want gear which will help them to catch more fish — making them the easiest people in the world to buy presents for.

Tackle shops are bulging with gizmos. Among them you can find: chemically sharpened hooks for a few bob; low-weight, high-tech fibre rods with heavyweight price tags — 17m long and not much change out of £10,000; lures flashing with many colours — plastic jobs for under £1, shaped like fish, frogs, crabs; metal creations glittering like costume jewellery for less than a tenner and anything a fish might be daft enough to snap at.

Vince, captain of England's women's team, who gained a silver in this year's world championships, has experimented with every idea that the multi-million-pound tackle industry can dream up. This year she is seeking the ultimate — a super bait which could turn silver into gold in 1996. The seemingly endless bait list includes farmed worms (more expensive per pound than farmed salmon) and pick-'n'-mix coloured maggots. Expert angler Keith Arthur has been seen putting red and white maggots on his hook, but there is no magic in this formula. It's just that Arthur is an Arsenal fan. Maggots used to come in pints but the European Union has changed that. Expect to pay around £2 for 568 ml. Not the most romantic present and difficult to wrap.

Snap up a snazzy lure

Vince has another present tip for the angler who has everything: designer angling clothes. England team member Sandra Halkon Hunt designs and makes outfits for men and women. The range includes quilted jackets (from £32.95), Gore-Tex and Windstopper unquilted jackets (from £139.95), over trousers (from £13.95), zip-in body warmers (£19.95), bait aprons (£12.50), Gore-Tex baseball-style fishing caps (£17.95 black only, other caps £2.50), T-shirts (£4.50), sweatshirts (£10.95), rod holdalls (from £69.99) and rod tubes (from £1.60). Buy individual items or colour-co-ordinate your outfit with your bait bowls (from £4.95) and umbrella (from £43.08). She also designs uniforms for angling clubs.

Ask your local tackle dealer or ring 01302 322420.

JACK CROSSLEY

● *None of the clothing prices listed above includes VAT.*

Creda's fan Ovens cut Out the damn and blasts.

Open most fan ovens and you get a blast of hot air in the face, because the fan keeps running. Which can lead to some bad language. But Creda Circulaire fan ovens that cost from around £450 cut out the moment the door is opened. So you can keep a cool head while you admire the nice even cooking. Circulaire fan ovens come in a whole range of built-in and slot-in Credas. To find out more about Britain's best-selling electric cookers, ring the Creda Answercentre on 0541 546474.

Something's always cooking at Creda

Another mild winter of discontent

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

Six years of traditional farming and I can honestly say that almost every climatological experience has confronted me. I have farmed through storm and tempest, flood and drought. But I have been cheated of just one thing, for it seems that despite the cold of recent days my farming career will pass without it having had to survive one single really bitter winter. I know it has been chilly lately but these fleeting cold snaps with a few frozen points at Clapham Junction do not pass for a real winter in my book.

East Anglia used to be famous for them. Indeed, when we first came to live here a mere 13 years ago, every winter was punctuated with massive falls of snow which, one year, caused food to be dropped by helicopters to relieve the snow-bound villagers. I remember one night, with the temperature outside falling to -16C, inside it was too cold to sleep. At three o'clock in the morning we got up, lit the fire and huddled round it. Very Dr Zhivago.

Of course, we have had cold snaps when pipes have frozen and the ice on the troughs has had to be broken with the feed bucket, but they have never lasted for more than a few days. And then it has been back to those mild and muggy days which confuse the snowdrops. And us, too.

This year, for example, our carthorses were still on the meadows as late as the first weekend in December. This is unprecedented. In previous years their broad, iron-shod feet have been churning the sodden pastures to mud by early October and they have had to be brought into strawed yards to save the grass from any further damage. Not this year. Following the warm autumn, the meadows were firm and lush enough to be used as a golf course. Traditionally, the first of November was the date on which horses were brought in for the winter, but that was in the days before someone took hold of the seasons and gave them a good shaking up. Oh, for a long, steady slide both into winter and out of it, and not a twitchy sort of weather that goes from baking to snow-bound within 24 hours. Not that I terribly enjoy winter mornings, I just feel that they are something which we ought to go through for our physical and mental health. Cutting into a haystack, grabbing hold of the icy handle of the stack-knife, feeling the chill of the shaft of the pitch-fork, is no great treat at the time; but somehow the memory of it carries over into the following season's haymaking and makes it all the more worthwhile and, therefore, enjoyable. One remembers the hunger on the faces of the livestock and the satisfaction of feeding them. It is the same sensation as having bottled home-made jam in the summer and then spending the winter months piling it on to hot toast. Would the making of it have the same thrill if you knew that the winter was going to be so mild that you only fancied salad? I am not the only one to think this way. It has been reported recently that Russia is suffering an early and severe winter, and that some, at least, of the Russians are delighted.

One Russian who moved to warmer climes is reported to have wept in longing for a harsh winter again. "Minus 40 is when I come alive; the air is so pure and refreshing." I agree; bitter winter weather is invigorating. It allows new sensitivities to flourish, and a whole new perception of the land to be enjoyed.

The writer John Stewart Collis crystallised for me the reasons why a hard winter does the spirit no harm. Of his days on the land he wrote:

"... is there any silence so deep and rare as that bestowed by snow? ... it is a wonderful thing in our machine age to find the world in the morning ankle-deep in snow. The unwonted silence that falls upon our life is truly magnificent. One heavy fall of snow in the country, and modern civilisation is silenced!"

That's the point. Life in both town and country has become insulated from the direct influence of the force of nature, and when nature loses her temper and slaps us across the face with a blast of freezing fog on the M25, it puts us suitably in our place.

On farms too, where the advance of agricultural science is such that, for the first time in history, the battle between man and nature is tipping in favour of the farmer, it does us no harm to be reminded that all it takes is for nature to dump six inches of snow on us for modern civilisation to be silenced.

Whatever the winter throws at us this season, it will be my last as a farmer and I am determined to enjoy it. I shall look forward to the day when I peel the straw from the mangel heap in early January, savour every moment of carting straw to the horse yard to bed the carthorses. Winter is good for us, and the more bitter the better. Put another log on the fire, and pass the vodka, comrade.

Parts of the East Coast are continuing to fall into the sea, but building defences merely shifts the problem elsewhere

Nature poses a cliffhanger

BOB COLLIER

Close to the edge: a collapsed barn at Spurn Point, where erosion has been so bad that the area has been abandoned to the sea. Right: Yvonne Mars's pig farm has shrunk by two acres in seven years

"Topper, our pregnant cow, fell over the cliff when it collapsed," Sue Earle recalls. "Astonishingly, she turned up safe and sound five miles down the coast. She gave birth with no trouble at all. Mother and calf doing well."

This kind of domestic excitement can become routine on Ms Earle's farm in the village of Cowden on the Humberside coast. The cliffs are rugged and spectacular, but they are also vulnerable before the ravaging force of the North Sea.

When Ms Earle's uncle bought the farmhouse in the 1950s, it was more than 60 metres from the clifftop; now it is only a few paces from the edge. "We've had to evacuate buildings," Ms Earle says, "and the cliff road used by the farm delivery lorries and holidaymakers was first closed by the authorities and now it has gone right over the cliff."

Whole stretches of the east coast of England have been falling into the sea. So what can be done? Common sense says the answer is to build better sea defences. A few years ago, Mappleton, a village a mile and a half to the north of Cowden, was threatened with imminent flooding. So the council built a protective wall. This saved Mappleton, but Cowden residents say it set in motion a series of events which made their bit of coastline even more vulnerable.

Professor John Pethwick of Hull University's Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies, believes there could be some truth in the claim. "These problems are chiefly about the movement of sand from north to south by the tides.

"The presence of sand acts as a natural barrier and helps to slow the process of erosion. But man-made sea defences get in the way of the sand's natural movement southwards. So, deprived of sand, the shore immediately to the south of sea defences will erode more quickly."

Further down the Holderness peninsula lies Spurn Head, a misty, mysterious flatland poking out into the sea. This is a world-renowned habitat for rare migrating birds, even rarer moths and other wildlife.

Here the erosion has been so dramatic in recent years that the area has been abandoned to the encroaching sea. Tim Collins, Spurn Heritage Coast Officer, says: "We have evolved a strategy that says we should allow nature to take its course. Basically, Spurn is in the wrong place. It should be moving westwards with the rest of Holderness but it hasn't been doing so since 1840, when it broke from the mainland and was repaired with hard sea defences.

"These defences were not a good idea for the area generally. I know people get terribly worked up when they see the cliff edge disappearing into the sea, but hard defences in one place only result in more erosion in other places. Our new visitor centre explains to the public the merits of our policy to let nature take its course."

These local upheavals have a much wider significance to many of Europe's great coastal cities. Professor Pethwick says: "Continued deposition of silt along the coast is crucial in counteracting the rise in sea level. The removal of such a sediment source [by building a wall, for instance] may be disastrous, causing drowning of the mud flats and inundation of coastal flood defences.

'You can hear it when you're in bed at night: the land slipping and the old cliff falling on to the shore'

"The Holderness peninsula is peanuts. It's more important to ensure the long-term stability of the coasts of the EU states that border the southern North Sea — and to seek EU funding to compensate Holderness residents who lose their homes — in order to provide a wider coastal stability.

"It's a much bigger problem than many realise. All sorts of parochial attitudes are voiced. Distinguished engineers say to me, 'We mustn't let England fall into the sea!' I'd sacrifice Holderness any day to preserve Denmark. And in any case, erosion isn't an unmitigated disaster; it often creates new depositional lands. We shouldn't be engaged in confrontational planning against the sea but in conciliatory planning with the natural forces along our coastline."

The logic behind this general strategy seems unassailable, but the local and personal catastrophes remain. A quarter of a mile from Ms Earle's farm, Shawn and Yvonne Mars run their pig farm of some 90 sows. Mr Mars says: "When I bought this farm nearly seven years ago it was six acres, but now it's only a bit more than four. We knew about the coastal erosion when we bought the farm but the land was disappearing at one-and-a-half metres a year when we moved in. This year alone we've lost 15 metres."

The views and worries of the locals are being represented. Mr Collins says: "The responsibility for coastal defences is with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. They are encouraging local authorities to set up groups of all concerned people to organise their own regional policies. Our group is looking at the area from Flamborough, south to Lincolnshire".

There has been discussion about coastal management among EU states, but the question of sea defences has been left to individual governments. A spokesman for MAFF takes a cautious view: "It may be that what the scientists are saying about the link between what happens on the east coast of England and its results for places such as Zeebrugge, Rotterdam and Copenhagen is something that will be verified only in geological time."

But for others there is a greater urgency, which can be felt in Sue Earle's words: "You can hear it when you're in bed at night, in the gale and the rain: the land slipping and the old cliff falling on to the shore."

PETER MULLEN

OVER & UNDER.

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BY APPOINTMENT TO H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES

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Grand Public

REFINEMENT STILL COMES WITH A DOUBLE-BARRELLED NAME

Feather Report

Song of life in the ruins

BLACK REDSTARTS arrived in Britain with the bomb sites of the Second World War. As the flaming flowers of rosebay willowherb spread over the ruins in London, these attractive birds set up home on the surviving walls and roofs.

They had always come here in small numbers as autumn-passage migrants and winter visitors, mainly haunting the cliffs of the South Coast. There were also one or two records of breeding pairs before the war. But now they became a regular breeding bird.

They liked the bomb sites. There were cracks and crevices to nest in high up in the devastated office buildings, and plenty of insect life among the flourishing vegetation on the ground.

They are striking birds. The male in summer is black, with white wing patches, and an orange-red tail that never stops quivering. The brown female has a flashing red tail.

They bob up and down on the parapets of buildings, or run across the ground in pursuit of flies, often leaping up and hovering, rather in the manner of pied wagtails.

The bomb sites have mostly gone now, but the black redstarts have continued to come back in summer — perhaps about a hundred pairs a year. They live on power stations, railway sheds and other high buildings. In London, they shift around from year to year, but can usually be seen near the Guildhall in the City and King's Cross station. They have also pioneered the West Midlands and some of the towns in East Anglia.

The striking Black Redstart

Often, you first notice that they are around by their song coming from a rooftop — a cheerful jangle with a strange, buzzing coda.

They are common across Central Europe, and in Britain are at the edge of their range. In Germany and Austria you see them everywhere, in village high streets or on farm buildings.

Most of these Continental birds go south in the winter — but some come here. The black redstart is still a winter visitor to our shores, as it always was, and can still be seen this month, here and there, parading on the cliffs or feeding on the seaweed on the shore in Kent and Sussex, and in South Wales. Sometimes it comes into the gardens of seaside towns. In addition, a few birds, possibly lingerers from the summer, are seen most winters around the places where they nested.

The winter-coated males are not so dashing as they were in the summer — their glossy black plumage has turned rather sooty. But it is always a thrill to find one on a winter's day — perched, perhaps, on an old wartime pillbox — and to watch the movement of that trembling, incandescent tail.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — Watch out for smew now appearing on lakes and reservoirs. Twitchers — adult bonapartes gull at Ogston reservoir, Derbyshire: arctic redpoll at Rutland Water, Leicestershire: arctic redpoll at Cley, Norfolk. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p a minute at all other times.*

Give the joy of choosing

This year, give them the joy of choosing their own presents.

National Garden Gift Tokens make delightful gifts. Ranging from £1 to £20, these colourful tokens can be bought and exchanged for a huge variety of plants and other gardening items at most Garden Centres, Garden Shops and Nurseries right across the UK.

So give real joy this Christmas, give the gift that grows.

NATIONAL GARDEN GIFT TOKENS

Issued only by members of the Horticultural Trades Association

[هكذا من الأصل]

Red alert for the battle of the squirrels

Wildlife conservationists are setting out no-grey areas in Britain's woodlands

In the same part of Cumbria where Blue Sreak, Britain's first ballistic missile, was test-fired in the 1950s, another pioneering project is taking place. This time it involves red streaks — or squirrels — and the aim is to create a sanctuary for red squirrels in 12,500 acres of Kielder Forest at Spadeadam. With luck, it will be a no-grey area.

With the support of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust, the Forestry Commission has started to change the species of trees in the area to give reds more of their favourite conifer food. Similar schemes favouring red squirrels by habitat improvement are happening at Thetford Forest in East Anglia and Clocaenog Forest near Ruthin in north Wales, but not on the same scale.

The Northumberland Wildlife Trust has funded three years of research by Dr Peter Lurz, of Newcastle University, whose studies have had a direct impact on the Spadeadam red squirrel reserve. Dr Lurz's recent doctorate thesis, "The ecology and conservation of the red squirrel in upland conifer plantations", was based on work at Kielder Forest.

Maintaining food levels is vital if reds are to breed, Dr Lurz says. He estimates that if females do not reach 300 grammes (about 10½ oz) they have only a 10 per cent chance of survival. "Red squirrels normally have about three or four young at a time, which makes a big demand on their bodies. That's why they need to keep their weight up. At around 280g their chances of having young are almost zero."

Northumberland and north Cumbria are regarded as the last great bastions of the red squirrel in England. Much of the Scottish Highlands is still grey-free and there are a few red pockets elsewhere in England and Wales. But, since the introduction of grey squirrels from North Americamore than 100 years ago, greys in England and Wales are greatly in the majority —about 200,000 reds to several million greys.

Greys are at least a third bigger in size than reds, are better foragers, have a much wider dietary range and are at home in broadleaved woods (they love acorns). If they are competing for food in such woods, the greys will win.

Hostility to greys is generally because they are squeezing out a native species, and because of the damage they do by stripping the bark off trees. This can seriously affect the quality of the timber, and may kill trees.

By trapping and tagging red squirrels and then seeing which trees they feed from, Dr Lurz has discovered their food preferences in conifer plantations. "Reds favour the seeds of pine and Norway spruce, but are not so keen on those from Sitka spruce," he says.

This is unfortunate for the 7-12,000 red squirrels in Kielder Forest: most of the trees planted there — at 125,000 acres it is northern Europe's largest man-made forest — are Sitka spruce. It was a commercial decision to plant these because they grow faster than other conifers and can be harvested sooner.

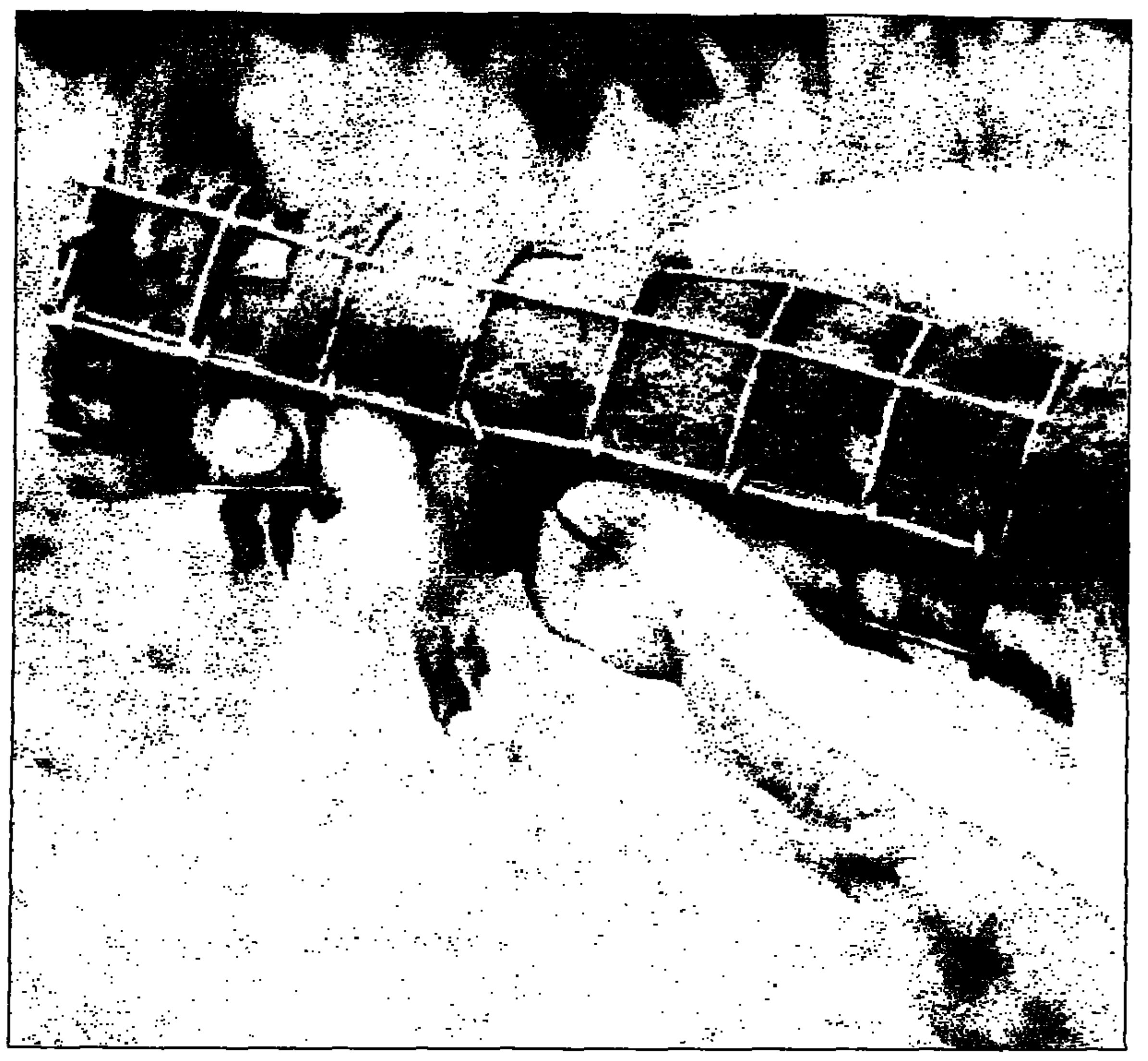
Two years ago, however, Forest Enterprise, the land management arm of the Forestry Commission, decided to alter the variety of trees in 12,500 acres of Kielder at Spadeadam.

"Dr Lurz's studies have shown which species of conifer red squirrels prefer, so in future this designated area will have a much higher proportion of Scots pine and Norway spruce," says Bill Burlton, environment forester at Kielder.

The changes will take effect over 40 years, which is about the cycle for planting and felling trees in Kielder. About 700 acres have been replanted so far.

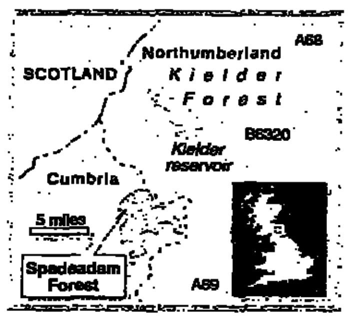
This discrimination in favour of the red squirrel comes at a cost. "It means a significant drop in income from timber. We have to balance our books, of course, but there is scope for local forests to concentrate on conservation and recreation." Mr Burlton says.

MIKE SCOTT



Above: Dr Peter Lurz, of Newcastle University, with a device for tracking tagged squirrels at Spadeadam

Left: a red squirrel, safely caged in a handling cone, at Kielder Forest. They are released within a minute



In the rest of Kielder Forest, which straddles the Cumbria-Northumberland border, other changes have been taking place. Over the past ten years the Forestry Commission has introduced more broadleaved trees, such as oak, ash, alder, willow, rowan and hawthorn. Eventually, about 20 per cent of the forest will consist of open areas and mixed broadleaved trees. But the introduction of these trees is in itself creating a dilemma, Mr Burlton says. "We want to make the forest more attractive to the public and create a diverse habitat for birds, insects and mammals. But if we want to discourage grey squirrels we shouldn't really be planting broadleaves such as oak, ash and hazel which have big seeds. Greys love these."

This is why the Forestry Commission has set up the reserve. "If all fails in the main part of the forest — and eventually we can see a situation where greys will move into Kielder — we hope this sanctuary will be exclusively for reds," Mr Burlton says.

The Spadeadam reserve is bordered on two sides by open fell, on another by agricultural land and the other by the rest of the forest. So how will the grey squirrels be kept out of the area?

"We can't say that the greys definitely won't go into the reserve or, if they do, whether or not they would try to take over," Mr Burlton says. "But we are creating the most favourable conditions for reds and the least favourable ones for greys, so reds are more likely to withstand any attempts by greys to squeeze them out."

There are far fewer greys in coniferous woodlands (they came from deciduous forests in north America) and research to find out why is under way.

To help the reds further, the broadleaved trees being planted by the Forestry Commission in the sanctuary are those such as birch, alder and willow, which all help diversity but whose seeds do not appeal so much to greys.

Food is the key. Dr Lurz says that reds are happy in broadleaved woods in the absence of greys. They like beech nuts and hazel nuts, and they will eat acorns, even though these cause digestive problems.

Keith Merrin, of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust, says: "We've been warning people for the past four years that time was running out for reds in this area. In the last six months there have been several sightings of greys around Newcastle (40 miles away), so we are starting to get worried because they can establish themselves very quickly."

Four years ago in the North East, a campaign called Red Alert was launched to encourage landowners, particularly in the areas bordering Northumberland, to watch for greys, trap them and dispose of them humanely. It also urges people to put out supplementary feeds for reds, and encourage habitat management, as Forest Enterprise is doing at the Spadeadam reserve.

"We're drawing up the battle lines. We don't want greys in the North East. There is a pride here in red squirrels. But, if it comes to the worst, there'll still be one place where the reds will survive, and that's at Spadeadam," he says.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

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Old ones still the best ones

The pick of the classics that have come back from the dead

A literary classic is a work that never lacks readers — unless, of course, it lacks a publisher. Here are a few that have recently returned from the dead.

Classics can be made more palatable by *judicious* abridgement. Take **Johnson's Dictionary: A Modern Selection** by E. L. McAdam and George Milne (Cassell, £9.99), a welcome reissue, *containing the pith* of one of the most famous yet least-read books in the language. Why was Margaret Thatcher wise to prefer the appellation "statesman" to the apparently more *modern "stateswoman"*? Johnson defines the latter thus: "A woman who meddles with publick affairs. In contempt." He is equally sharp on the connotations *of every word.*

DANIEL JOHNSON

Swift's **Directions to Servants** is the latest addition to the Penguin Syrens series. At £2.99 for fewer than 100 pages, these miniature paperback classics are not cheap; but this one is a bargain all the same. Swift's scatological wit is wickedly subversive. Here he addresses the chambermaid: "Get your *favourite Footman to help* you in making your Lady's Bed: and, if you serve a young Couple, the Footman and you, as you are turning up the Bed-Cloaths, will make the prettiest Observations in *the World*; which, whispered about, will be very entertaining to the whole Family."

Jeremy Bentham's **Panopticon Writings** (Verso, £34.95 hbk, £11.95 pbk) extends the snooping of servants into the nightmare of total deprivation of privacy: *what the great utilitarian* called his "inspection principle" was to apply not just to prisons, but to workhouses, factories, madhouses, hospitals and schools. His centrally designed inspection-houses would have enabled the "monitor" to keep the prisoner, *worker or patient* under constant observation.

This has been an especially fruitful autumn for classic foreign fiction. From the American firm of Norton come new translations of **The Arabian Nights** (volume I, £10.95 pbk, volume II £19.95) and **Don Quijote** (£21.50), both highly recommended. From Harvill *comes Giuseppe Tomasi* di Lampedusa's **The Siren and Selected Writings** (£14.99 hbk, £8.99 pbk), a feast for lovers of *The Leopard*. From Duckworth, Edgar Quinet's 1858 memoir **The Story of a Child** is a costly volume at £25; but Peter and Rosemary Ganz's *translation stands* as a remarkable testimony to the intellectual life in the France of Louis Philippe and Napoleon III. Theodor Fontane was perhaps the greatest German novelist of the late *19th* century, and **Effi Briest** (Angel Books, £8.95 pbk), published in 1895, is his most popular work. This superb new translation by Hugh Rorrison and Hel*en Chambers* at last enables English readers to enjoy a novel that deserves comparison with *Madame Bovary* and *Anna Karenina*. Servants again: the Swiss-German Robert Walser's 1908 novel about a school for domestic servants, **Institute Benjamenta** in an edition by Christopher Middleton (Serpent's Tail, £8.99) ex*plains why Walser has* become such a cult figure.

Outstanding among the great biographies reissued this Christmas is Hilary Spurling's **Ivy: The Life of I. Compton-Burnett** (Richard Cohen, £30), a true classic of the genre. So does Richard Holmes's **Shelley: The Pursuit** (Flamingo, £9.99 pbk), the indispensable life of a poet whose stature has grown in the 20 years since first publication.

Finally, the elegant Picador Travel Classics series *continues with* **Eothen** by A. W. Kinglake (Picador, £13), a journey through the Middle East in 1844. The high point of Kinglake's odyssey was at the house of the Virgin in Nazareth: "One moment my heart, or some old pagan demon within me woke up, and *fiercely bounded* — my bosom was lifted, and swung — as though I had touched her warm robe. One moment, one more, and then — the fever had left me. I rose from my knees. I felt hopelessly sane."

Plots you can really dig

Jane Owen grabs her secateurs to prune the *thicket of gardening books and to harvest* the best of the year's horticultural crop

Jekyll, Sackville-West, Robinson and Fish: the subject matter of so *many of this year's gardening* titles is all well-rehearsed but there seems to be little from or about those whose influence will shape the gardens of the 21st century. The British have forged a fine tradition of gardening and cannot afford to sit on their well-clipped laurels.

Striding past the compost heap of nostalgia comes Christopher Lloyd, now in his seventies and still coming up with new ideas for his garden at Great Dixter in Sussex. His voice is as eccentric, opinionated, witty and well-informed as ever. In **Other People's Gardens** (Viking, £22.50) he takes the reader on a critical tour of 24 gardens. Of the temperate house in Ventor Botanic Garden he says: "It looks, when lit up at night, like a jelly mould. Unfortunately the lighting is white; it should be in a range of lurid colours gradually changing sequence. It would be interesting to see how the plants responded to that." Such passages are tempered with precise horticultural explanations of gardens, and tips about growing banana varieties or taking more risks with palms.

At Belsay Hall in the North he falls *for the gardens* restored by The Times Gardener, Stephen Anderton, who, in Lloyd's estimation, "is one of the best half dozen writers on gardening in this country".

Peter Smithers can probably beat Lloyd's gardening record by about ten years. But Sir Peter has combined his obsession with an international diplomatic career (MI6) which cleverly managed to take in plant institutions around the world. **Adventures of a Gardener** (Harvill Press with the Royal Horticultural Society, £30) is an *international horticultural journey* interwoven with a James Bond-style story of fast cars and beautiful women.

While at school, the young Smithers started to record all his plants in a large, leather-bound volume, and finished in 1993 on entry 32,147 when he moved on to a computer. His photo*graphs of his own plants illustrate this* book and will be familiar to Vincent Square show goers. Most of these plants are grown at his garden above Lake Lugano in Switzerland, transformed from scrubland into an elegant slope where magnolias and camellias thrive. Today that garden, like Lloyd's, attracts visitors from around the world.

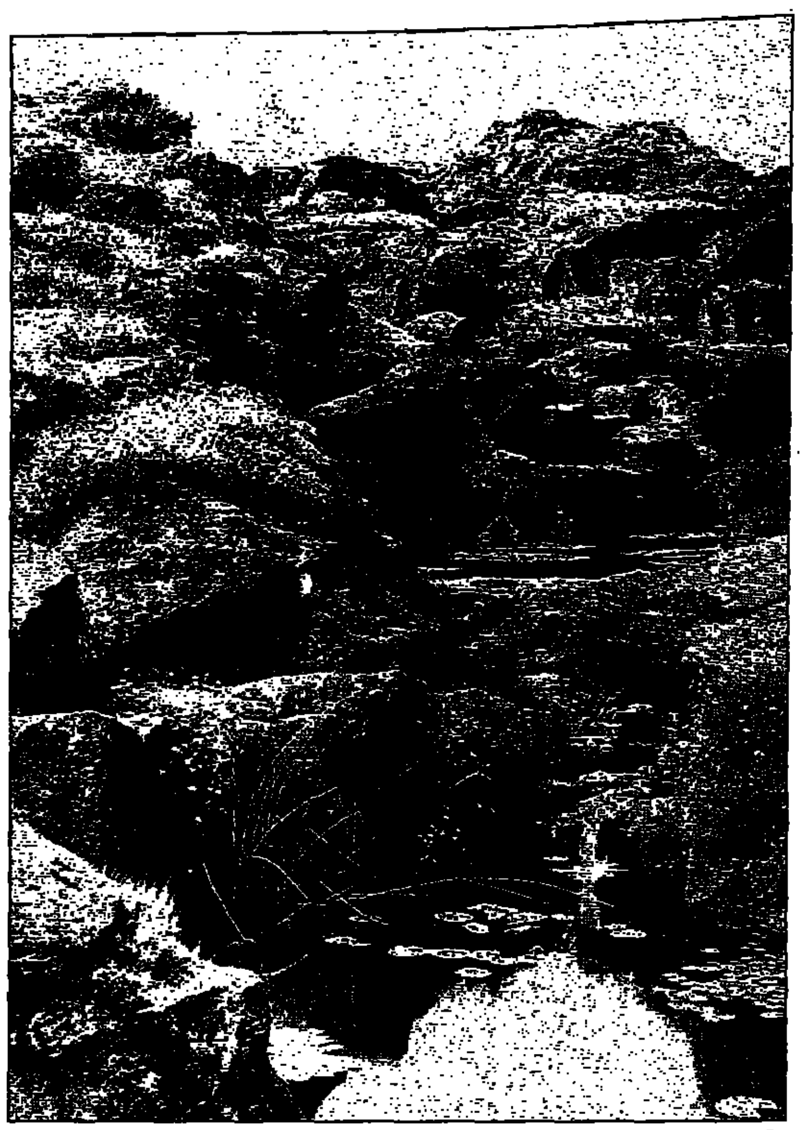
Smithers and Lloyd are the people to take gardening lessons from, but publishers seem to detect a hunger for more about gardeners from a earlier time. Hence the following facsimile editions: William Robinson's **The Wild Garden** (Sagapress, £15) Gertrude Jekyll's **Colour in the Flower Garden** (*Mitchell Beazley, £14.99*) and Margery Fish's **We Made a Garden** (Mitchell Beazley, £14.99).

Brent Elliott, the Royal Horticultural Society's librarian, has rifled *Country Life's* archives of magnificent photographs to produce **The Country House Garden** (Mitchell Beazley, £40). His meticulous text draws together the influences and ideas around the turn of *the century with unwavering authority* and saves the book from any *nostalgic wallowing despite a surfeit of* Jekyll and Robinson. And the quality of the photographs is breathtaking, a record of incomparable gardens made at a time when labour was affordable.

Gardening at Sissinghurst *by Tony* Lord (Frances Lincoln, £25) is an excellent read which traces the garden's history from the moment it was bought by Vita, through Harold Nicolson's involvement (far greater than I had understood), to its current gardening team under the National Trust.

For a detailed tour of some of today's **English Gardens**, Patrick Taylor's *book of that name (Engish Heritage,* £25) is a good bet, glossily illustrated, and gives a gazetteer of gardens and a map. For a more comprehensive survey of gardens to visit (more than 1,000) the book to buy is **The 1996 Good Gardens Guide** (Vermilion, £13.99), which extends to Europe and includes detailed maps. It was edited by Peter King and the late Graham Rose, *whose formidable presence in the* gardening world will be greatly missed. Take his guide with you everywhere.

The only practical gardening book which caught my eye is **Mediterranean Gardening** by Heidi Gildemeister (Editorial Moll, £20), the drought-induced vogue for the late 20th century. It gives timely advice on *gardening with plants that do not need* a great deal of water. After suggesting garden designs and plant groupings, she outlines the physiology of these plants and gives an alphabetical listing of useful ones.


The rock garden at Friar Park in Oxfordshire is surmounted by a 30ft scale model of the Matterhorn — from *The Country House Garden*

Keeping passion on ice

■ FACING THE MUSIC
By Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, with John Man
Simon & Schuster, £14.99.

WAS Jane Austen a lesbian? Was William Blake barking mad? *Did Torvill and Dean go* to bed together? These are some of the great questions that biographers *have* wrestled with over the year.

But does it really matter? After all, we have *Persuasion*; we have *Songs of Innocence and Experience*; we have *Bolero.* Masterpieces all, and surely that is enough?

Of course it is, we answer austerely. But all the same — well, did they?

The question is not entirely prurient. What was the nature *of the relationship* behind those strange dances and those huge victories? The tower of sports books released for the Christmas market stretched towards the ceiling, but curiosity on this one great question directed me to *this* work among many and brought the edifice crashing down about my ears.

The tellers of the T and D story have an advantage denied to the biographers of Blake and Austen, being T and D themselves, but it is fairly elusive stuff. We won this and *then we won that*; so and so was great and so was somebody else. It is all rather ordinary: and you want to know how they got to be extraordinary. These cuckoos in the nest of suburbia, clerk and policeman, produced from a fairly ridiculous sport something like art. Their performance at the 1994 Winter Olympics gained Britain's highest ever television audience for a sporting event. And they became a national institution: "Love on ice," said the *News of the World*; "True love," said *The Sun.*

Torvill and Dean: lovers on the rink but not off it

Oh yes, they were in love all right. With skating; with performance; with competition. "A psychologist might say all that teenage sexual energy went into skating. Or perhaps our lack of experience made us innocent."

So they did not do it, you see. "We were monk and nun, both dedicated to a way of life to the exclusion of things other people considered normal." As for sex, they just skated it.

Their last hurrah at the Winter Olympics on 1994 featured a wonderfully over-the-top rumba: it seemed highly *unlikely that they* would be able to get to the end without ripping each other's clothes off. "It is precisely because we are not lovers off the ice that we can focus on each other with such commitment on it."

They were actors, but always with the same partner: "He's the artist . . . she sees it and makes it a reality". And some mysterious process *made them capable of a form* of alchemy: turning sporting kitsch into gold.

And all the time, they never ceased to look utterly ordinary. Even in *Bolero*, when they climbed the volcano to fling themselves into the fiery depths clad in their purple *silks, they still looked as if they* had called in at Tesco's before they set off. Even when Dean turned into a matador and strutted across the ice with a high peacock tread, the two still looked as if they would go to a Berni Inn after for a prawn cocktail.

And perhaps that was the *point. The stuff of their art was* the humdrum fantasies of escape from suburbia, conceived, perfected and performed by two halves of a single genius.

SIMON BARNES

Derwent May raises a smile over the comic offerings for Christmas, but not a belly laugh

Just a bit of a giggle so I giggled just a bit

A mong the ashes of old issues of *Private Eye*, there is only one glowing ember this year. But this one really glows bright. It is **The Private Eye Book of *Craig Brown Parodies*** (Corgi, £4.99), which must be the funniest book on sale this Christmas.

It is hard to imagine anyone with a better ear than Brown for a writer's idiosyncrasies, or a more mischievous gift for the delicate exaggeration of them. Here is an essay by Martin *Amis*: "*What happens when* galaxies collide? When galaxies collide what happens? What *happens* when galaxies collide? This is the mega-question, you know: *galaxies having collided, happens what?*" And here is Roseanne Arnold: "You know what, I don't give a shit. I don't give a shit about the crap, and, like, I don't give a crap about the shit. I stand for the victim."

I leave it to you to watch the others wriggling on Brown's hook, including Anthony Pow*ell having drinks* "*with the* Somersets in Gloucester. Then on to the Gloucesters in Somerset", Jilly Cooper feeling "a mite boo-hoo-ish about poor old Radovan Karadzic" and Alan Clark mistaking the Queen for a waitress ("Smack botties for Alan").

The other *Private Eye* an*thologies do not stand* a chance against that. **Magic Private Eye** (Corgi, £4.99), a collection of once topical bits and pieces from the mag, already seems as dead as a doornail, while **The 4th & Final Secret Diary of John Major** (Corgi, £4.99) is just flat. The joy of the old letters to "*Dear Bill*" *from Denis T was* their rich, ripe tone of voice: the only joke in the Major diary is that he has no tone of voice at all.

THE OLDIE

Not much better can be said of **Top Tips 2** (John Brown, £3.99), "a blend of frugality and gumption hand-picked from the pages of *Viz*". They include such suggestions as: "Don't waste money on expen*sive Swiss* cheese. Just buy cheddar, and poke holes in it with an old knitting needle." My tip about these tips is: read one a day — for one day.

The Oldie Book of Cartoons (Park McDonald, £5.99) is a much more agreeable surprise. Most of these 200 cartoons are terse with the words and sharp with the point, which is usually about *the pains of modern life.* "Now wash your hands again," says a towel coming out of a machine. "Kindly use the middle management ledge, Perkins," says an executive contemplating suicide to the man standing by him. "I'm surprised you got custody of us, Dad," says a schoolboy to a sozzled figure on the pavement. *The Oldie stays youth*ful, it seems.

With a heavy heart I must report that the great Giles does not seem so funny any more. His old admirers will fall avidly on **Giles at War** (Headline, £10.99) and **The Ultimate Giles** (Headline, £25). The first reprints Giles's wartime car*toons for the Daily Express*, while the second gives a wider picture of his work and a biography by Peter Tory.

Let everyone enjoy their nostalgia. However, to me, those cheerful ripostes to wartime miseries have faded irrecoverably. "Bang! And there goes the officer's mess," says a *caption to a picture of a shell* exploding in a ravaged street, with tommies smiling in their foxholes — but "Bang!" goes humour, too. The captions are too elaborate, the drawings too cluttered. The situation has gone, *taste* has changed — perhaps that is every cartoonist's fate.

Not that *there is any joy* to be had in some new books of supposedly Irish humour, **Handy Sex Hints for Irish Girls** by Clíodna O'Flynn and **How the Irish Lost the War Against Sex** by Aongus Col*lins (NFK, £4.99 each). All that* these terrible pornographic jokes will do is to get the Irish divorce rate going.

We get back into a much more genteel world with the new spoof book by "J. R. Hartley" — the *Yellow Pages* television ad creation who wanted a copy of his fictitious out-of-print book *Fly Fishing*, after which a shrewd publisher brought the book into being. The new one, **Golfing** *(Hodder, £9.99) tells some* possibly funny sporting tales, such as Hartley's dreadful time when his nephews and nieces filled his golf bag with iron drain covers and his caddie collapsed under the weight. Heavy going.

Thank the god of humour for reprints of two Wodehouse *anthologies.* ***Plum Pie*** *and* **Vintage Wodehouse** (Vintage, £6.99 each). The latter includes *Lord Emsworth and the Girl Friend*, which Rudyard Kipling called "an example of the perfect short story". Kipling rules, OK?

THE TIMES

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Keeping passion on ice

It is the ordinariness of Fred and Rose West that underlines the horror, **Paul Barker** says, but the mystery remains

Murder amid the mundanity

THE WORST things, in a way, in these books about Fred and Rose West are the pictures. Not pictures of bodies, because little was left to photograph, but colour pictures of the happy couple, smiling at the camera like any holiday family; or Fred raising a glass to celebrate the wedding of the daughter, Anne Marie, whom he had come home in his lunch hour to rape; or three attractive children sitting in a row in their bright Sunday best, one of whom, Heather, is destined to be murdered and buried in the hole, supposedly for a fish pond, that she had helped Fred to dig in the back garden of 25 Cromwell Street.

Beside these, like spectres at the feast, are the fuzzy black and white snapshots of Fred and Rose's parents and grandparents. Fred's maternal grandparents, the Hills, were poverty-stricken Herefordshire labourers whom locals mocked as "the hillbillies". They are like the Starkadders, from *Cold Comfort Farm*, but this time there really was something nasty in the woodshed.

Both Fred and Rose almost certainly came from incestuous families. Fred probably had sex with his mother and Rose with her father. Rose was to grow up as "a lovely young maid" who, even if she was "a bit slow", had been taught to know "the difference between right and wrong". Anything Fred, Rose and their brothers and sisters were taught at home was rubbed in by beatings.

Ibsen could have turned it into a morality play about genetics, like *Ghosts*. But as Howard Sounes acknowledges in *Fred and Rose*, no "explanations" really explain anything. Other people have come from such backgrounds, or worse, and yet have not become serial killers. Colin

■ FRED AND ROSE
By Howard Sounes
Warner Books, £5.99

■ INSIDE 25 CROMWELL STREET
By Stephen and Mae West
Peter Grose, £5.99

■ OUT OF THE SHADOWS
By Anne Marie West with Virginia Hill
Simon & Schuster, £14.99

■ A PLAGUE OF MURDER: The rise and rise of serial killing in the modern age
By Colin Wilson
Robinson, £6.99

Wilson's *A Plague of Murder* is a re-hash of his many books about murder, with only a hasty last chapter about the Wests. He drags in his usual battery of pop psychology, plus Dostoevsky, the Moors murders and Krafft-Ebing. But it is, he says, "difficult to find a parallel anywhere in the world". The mystery remains.

SOUTH WEST NEWS SERVICE

Fred West drinks a toast at Anne Marie's wedding in 1986

The tape-recorded interviews with Stephen and Mae West which form the text of *Inside 25 Cromwell Street* do not take you much further forward. Like the photographs, they are at their most bizarre when they bring out the ordinariness amid the horror. Fred forbade them to watch *EastEnders* because it was "depressing". But he made them watch obscene videos, including some which featured Rose. The relationship between Stephen and Mae and their parents, whom they still in some sense love, is another of the mysteries.

Even Anne Marie, from her account in *Out of the Shadows*, seems still to love the father who raped her, though not the stepmother who forced her, from an early age, to take turns with her in bedding West-Indian callers. Rose, she writes, "would have made a wonderful concentration-camp guard".

The best of these first books on the Wests' murders is undoubtedly Sounes's. A *Daily Mirror* reporter, he tells a clear, straightforward tale. His title has a terrible jaunty echo of Fred and Ginger, the Astaire-Rogers cinema double act. This was a double act, also. Stephen West says, "I think there was something wrong with Mum when she was young. Dad wasn't quite right either, so there were two people who weren't quite right who got together, and it was a lethal cocktail." It is a story of obsessive love as well as obsessive murder.

I wonder about other obsessions. We know of 12 murders for certain. But the number 25 crops up again and again in these books.

It was the number of a house Fred lived in with his first wife (later murdered) in Glasgow; of his caravan (where he killed her); of the Wests' holiday chalet; of their flat in Gloucester (where Rose killed her stepdaughter, Charmaine); and then of their notorious last home in Cromwell Street.

Did the sex murders really stop in 1979-80, or did they shift to another site as Rose and Fred's children started to grow up? Did Fred have another obsession which he stolidly got on with? Stephen says that when he plays the lottery, which he often does, he makes sure that the numbers he chooses include 25.

All that creates a family

■ AT PARADISE GATE
By Jane Smiley
Flamingo paperback original, £5.99

"THE REAL question," Claire says, "is married or not married. Maybe someone will come along and then you can say again, married or not married, but you can't say, this one or that one."

Gathered, along with her mother, Anna, and her two sisters, Helen and Susanna, around the deathbed of Ike — the irascible head of this scattered and re-formed family — Claire's argument seems reductive. But time and grief have pared them all down to the very bones of existence: it is Jane Smiley's skill to turn such starkness into revelation.

Anna's now middle-aged daughters, and Helen's own daughter, Christine, have ostensibly come to persuade their mother that Ike must have a nurse. But Anna's daughters, like Anna herself, "love to remember", and much of the novel's 24-hour timespan is taken up with the conflicting recollections on which their lives are built.

Such a situation might suggest maudlin sentimentality, but Smiley's unflinching precision allows for nothing of the sort. Anna's love for her family sits on a bedrock of resentment that salts both conversation and memory; and Christine's announcement that she is going to leave her husband of two years — along with her family's suspicion that she is pregnant — stirs up a muddy pool of emotion that grows even more turbulent in the face of death.

Above it all — literally, for he is mostly confined to an upstairs bedroom — is Ike, a memory of the man who once won $400 at poker and spent it on a diamond ring for his wife. The ring is now pawned, and Anna's recollections are her only way of accepting the sacrifices she has made.

The novel's compression makes its movement slow but never sluggish: every moment and image has the drawn-out quality of the seconds before a disaster. The writing's delicate strength makes these women individuals — and yet part of a larger whole.

At Paradise Gate was written in 1981, and so long predates *A Thousand Acres*, Smiley's fine American reworking of *Lear*. It is evidence that her fascination with "a nest of daughters" is an old one, but it is more than that too: a bittersweet portrait of the complex ties of affection and exasperation that bind and create a family.

ERICA WAGNER

AUDIOBOOKS

When Billie met Sammy

■ BILLIE WHITELAW... WHO HE?
Written and read by Billie Whitelaw
Hodder Headline, £7.99
(3 hours, 2 cassettes)

NOT a run-of-the-mill luvvy story from actress Billie Whitelaw. Her journey from child radio star to National Theatre and Broadway is familiar, but it is her intense and rewarding relationship with Samuel Beckett which brings this tale to brilliant life. The brief extracts she reads from Beckett's plays hint at her powerful theatre performances. I could have done with much, much more. Throughout Whitelaw refuses to play the star game: she remains enchantingly aloof, always her own person.

■ THE MAN WHO MADE HUSBANDS JEALOUS
By Jilly Cooper
Read by Samuel West
Corgi Audio, £12.99
(6 hours, 4 cassettes)

THE bonkbuster motors along at 30 humps an hour. Now and again there are flashes of the great Jilly Cooper wit, but mainly it is just the flashes. Her stud hero Lysander Hawkley has a well-concealed heart of gold as he upsets husbands by sleeping with their wives and getting paid for it, but eventually even the rumpety-pumpety gets tedious.

■ THE 60-MINUTE FATHER
Written and read by Rob Parsons
Hodder Headline, £7.99
(1 hour, 2 cassettes)

SENSIBLE, management-style advice for fathers whose children think they are called Wave as in "Look, there's your father — wave". Goals are set, targets invented to achieve, with headings such as Job v Family, Finding a balance, Building a relationship that will last a lifetime, Helping your children reach their potential. Fathers might be forgiven for thinking successful family life is merely an extension of the office. All you need is a performance review, a flip chart and 60 minutes.

RUSSELL TWISK

Luvvies making Sense

Elizabeth Buchan is impressed and amused by a re-invention of Jane Austen

■ JANE AUSTEN'S SENSE AND SENSIBILITY: The Screenplay and Diaries
By Emma Thompson
Bloomsbury, £16.99

"MAY 14. Home at 3.30am, arseholed. I stumbled into my bedroom where Harriet Walter was already asleep. She sat bolt upright. 'Help me,' I wailed. 'Oh God,' she said. 'Why don't you try throwing up?'" "June 18. Watched *Blind Date* and picked my feet." "June 22. Noon. Finish scene with Alan. Me: 'Oh! I've just ovulated.' Alan (long pause): 'Thank you for that.'"

Emma Thompson's decision to share with us those intimate day-to-day details of the filming Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* was typically bold. She may have written an excellent screenplay and, starring as Elinor Dashwood, turned in a first-class performance, but I found myself worrying about the shocking state of her bowels and whether she should see a chiropodist. Digestion, acne, sleeping problems, tears, howls, and shredded nerves... of course. For assembled on set was a staggering tally of luvvy talent and looks. "Personal dramas everywhere," she notes at one point. How comforting to know that luvvies are, well, really luvvy-ish.

So what contribution do these infuriating but fascinating jottings — conversations, meal menus, the clatter and clack of communal artistic endeavour — make to our understanding of the film? On reflection, Thompson is enjoying a joke of her own. Intricate and quietly subversive, *Sense and Sensibility* is a novel built around secrets: hidden longings, masked truths, cover-ups for bad behaviour, unspoken motives. Pinpointing the intersection between social position, marriage and money, it explores, among other things, the role of the family. Knickers 'n' belch anecdotes are in direct contrast to Austen's elegance and control, but in recording the ballyhoo of the sprawling, extended family that makes up a film unit Thompson is, apparently, extending an invitation to compare hierarchies and ambitions.

Or is she? In the end, the diaries are a cunning piece of confection. For all the frankness and sharp insights, the joshing and matey jocularity, the meaningful agendas of relationships and emotion are kept well out of sight. There are occasionally peeps into Thompson's psyche — "the image of the man carrying the woman is horribly effective... I'd love someone to pick me up and carry me off" — but then we are whisked back to the spot-on-the-chin count.

Emma Thompson and Hugh Grant in *Sense and Sensibility* — "Thompson is enjoying a joke of her own"

What of the screenplay? To a degree it re-invents Austen, discarding some of her satire and astringent comment and her careful evocation of manners and substituting romanticism. That is not to deride it. Of necessity, Thompson has pared down scenes and characters and, if she has sacrificed some of the ironies and the tension between social convention and private wishes, she manages to retain intact much of the novel's subtle structure. We lose Willoughby's confession to Elinor but gain a scene with the wronged Marianne in the pouring rain, gazing at the house she hoped to inhabit as a wife. Out go Anne Steele, Lady Middleton and Colonel Brandon's brother. Instead we get a thoughtful and tender treatment of the sisters' relationship and competing shots of Willoughy and Brandon looking dashing and/or moody on horseback.

Unswerving Janeites might gnash their teeth but the intelligence behind these liberties is a steady one. As the screenplay develops it is clear that it keeps faith with point-counterpoint between the two men. He may be silent, but the Colonel outmatches his rival as hero, desirable husband and sentient human being. A less happy result, his screen characterisation also casts into the shade the somewhat dreary Edward Ferrars — Hugh Grant, woefully miscast.

Keeping a beady eye on Austen's link between love and money, Thompson's screenplay underpins a film that is strong, funny, often moving and visually ravishing.

● *Sense and Sensibility is released in Britain in February*

Hard-boiled in the same murky pot

■ HARD-BOILED: An Anthology of American Crime Stories
Edited by Jack Adrian and Bill Pronzini
OUP, £17.99

THE hard-boiled detective is a badly paid, tough, emotionally bruised, hard-drinking, cynical loner, but he is fundamentally honest — and, for all his roughness, he is dedicated to serving what he sees as justice. He was born in the books of Dashiell Hammett, passed through the works of Raymond Chandler, James M. Cain, Mickey Spillane and Jim Thompson and is still occasionally pounding the mean streets in Elmore Leonard and James Ellroy. This is an excellent representative collection, bravely finding stories that have not been over-anthologised, and backed by an informative and perceptive introduction. But why no Dorothy M. Hughes?

■ PULP CULTURE
By Woody Haut
Serpent's Tail, £9.99

IN WHAT makes a stimulating companion to the anthology, Haut examines the hard-boiled novel in the context of postwar American politics — the anti-communism paranoia and the Cold War (Dashiell Hammett appeared before Senator McCarthy's committee) and also the liberal resistance to right-wing excesses. He charts, too, the economic and social development of the private eye in a rapidly changing America. *Pulp Culture* has a serious intent, but it is easy and fun to read.

CRIME ROUND-UP

■ A CLASSICAL CHRISTMAS CRIME
Edited by Tim Heald
Pavilion, £14.99

THIRTEEN stories with a homicidally festive theme, their spirit is unashamedly English country house. The prize is a lovely P. D. James story in traditional mode — with a body in the library and footprints in the snow.

■ SIMEON'S BRIDE
By Alison G. Taylor
Hale, £16.99

AN impressive first novel, this is a dark, densely woven tale of Welsh passions. A woman's decomposed body, her hands bound, is found hanging in a wood near Bangor, identity and motive unknown. Chief Inspector McKenna, unhappily married, investigates gloomily, finding at every turn the town's sinister ne'er-do-well, Jamie Thief. Legend and folklore mix powerfully with savagely raw emotions. *Simeon's Bride* is overwritten, but force of language and intricacy of plot overcome that flaw. A disturbingly good debut.

MARCEL BERLINS

le Carré

'There are many imitators but this is the genuine article'
THE TIMES

'I cannot think of a more compelling read'
FINANCIAL TIMES

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OBSERVER

'le Carré at his magnificent best'
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How to tour the world by mouse

■ THE HUTCHINSON MULTIMEDIA ENCYCLOPAEDIA 1996 EDITION: CD-Rom for Windows
Hutchinson, £49.99

CD-ROM encyclopaedias do have a definite edge over their printed counterparts when it comes to cross-referencing, instant access to information and multimedia facilities. I do have one reservation, however. It is not that I am against all things American; it is just that when I click on the topic "television", for example, I expect to find information about the BBC, *Monty Python* or *The Bill* and not text about CNN, Barbara Walters and a photograph of Johnny Carson.

Until recently all the CD-Rom encyclopaedias available in this country were American in origin and bias. The highly praised *Encarta '95*, for instance, has a Population and Climate InterActivity Chart based on American states. Of the six categories of videos on *Grollier's Interactive Encyclopaedia*, one is entirely devoted to American presidents, and only five of the 26 biographies of sports figures in *Compton's Interactive Encyclopaedia* are not Americans.

Random House has produced two CD-Rom encyclopaedias especially for children of primary-school age. *Kid's Encyclopaedia* has good graphics and more than 250 video clips while *My First Encyclopaedia* encourages the under sevens to explore numerous topics but, again, the target audience is obviously American "kids".

All this changed late last year with the arrival of the first British CD-Rom encyclopaedia and now, at the end of November, the second edition of the *Hutchinson Multimedia Encyclopaedia* will be released. Revised, updated and expanded, the new 1996 edition contains more than 50,000 articles, about five million words, 5,000 illustrations, 59 video and animation clips, and even covers 1994's National Curriculum requirements. There are more than 900 articles on British history and British writers from Austen to Wordsworth.

Wordsworth: British writers are well covered

It is easy to negotiate your way around. Point the cursor at an object and a helpful caption pops up. Click on help and a soothing English voice guides you safely towards the 13,000-item chronological timeline, an interactive atlas or an up-to-date "What's in the News" category.

This British product is designed to appeal to British families and should prove a welcome addition to most CD-Rom collections. *The Hutchinson Multimedia Encyclopaedia* has set the trend and others are not far behind. The 1996 *Compton's Interactive Encyclopaedia* will have some modifications before its European release. *Encarta '96* was released in mid-November after two years work by 32 editors, who not only changed American spellings and pronunciations into English ones but altered the entire content to adapt it for the British market.

My only grouse now is that there is no version available for my Apple Mac. I wait in hope.

SARA DRIVER

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NEW ON CD: Ella's Decca archives; Mike Flowers is the big cheese; Weir weaves with light; Boulez on the boil

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ ELLA FITZGERALD
The Legendary Decca Recordings
GRP 46482 (4 CDs)★★

LEGENDARY? Not quite. The epithet is better applied to the extraordinarily consistent body of work that Ella Fitzgerald amassed from the mid-1950s, after she signed to Norman Granz's Verve label. Her 20-year relationship with Decca is remembered more as a high-spirited prelude to the decade when, as the First Lady of Song, she crossed over to a worldwide audience beyond the jazz sphere.

As stocking fillers go, Decca's retrospective is, then, not quite a match for *The Complete Songbooks*, but its conscientious rummage through the archives still repays attention. It easily surpassses Decca's earlier 75th-birthday compilation in terms of the space allotted to her celebrated ballads with pianist Ellis Larkins. Their intimate partnership is documented across an entire disc this time, which is no less than it deserves.

Fitzgerald: high spirits

For the rest, the ample playing time tends to underline the erratic quality, not of Fitzgerald's singing, but of the material and settings presented to her. Only the most obsessive collector will want to hear the full quotas from Louis Jordan and The Ink Spots, and even the numbers with Louis Armstrong are less than essential.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ ROXY MUSIC
The Thrill of it All
Virgin 8 40970 (4 CDs)★★

DECORATED at every turn with the glossy images of unnaturally glamorous and predatory women which were Roxy Music's visual trademark, *The Thrill of it All* is a lavishly packaged, 67-track retrospective which does the group's memory proud.

Their output was variable and their influence not altogether benign, but when they emerged in 1972 with their futuristic, pop-rock songs and arch, space-cockatoo image, Roxy Music played a welcome role in revitalising rock during the grey aftermath of the hippy era.

Disc one incorporates most of their groundbreaking first two albums, *Roxy Music* and *For Your Pleasure*, and although dogged by a desperately unfashionable drum sound, songs such as *Ladytron* and *In Every Dream Home a Heartache* retain their icy charm.

With the departure of sonic maestro Brian Eno in 1973, however, the group lost an element of strategic weirdness, and Bryan Ferry started to become a caricature of himself. Disc two — which draws together most of *Stranded*, *Country Life* and *Siren* — finds him schmoozing away in French on the majestic *A Song for Europe* and gargling in German on the ludicrously overwrought *Bitter-Sweet*.

These comical indulgences are mitigated by gems such as *Prairie Rose* and the timeless *Love is the Drug*, but disc three, which rounds up the string of albums they released after reforming in 1978 (*Manifesto*, *Flesh + Blood* and *Avalon*), is a weary triumph of style over content. Apart from *Virginia Plain*, *Pyjamarama* and *Jealous Guy*, the rag-bag of B-sides, remixes and non-album singles which comprises disc four will appeal only to Roxy completists.

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ THE MIKE FLOWERS POPS
Wonderwall
London LONCD 378★★

WITH the fashion for easy-listening music — the so-called "cheesy" sound — gaining momentum in the clubs, and Radio 2 fast becoming the natural station for big-selling, middle-of-the-road pop acts including Robson & Jerome and Michael Ball, it was only a matter of time before a record like this came along.

Located at the cutting edge of cheesy, so to speak, the Mike Flowers Pops are a modern, 13-piece pop orchestra of the sort that was last in fashion when the BBC Light Programme ruled. Recalling the generic B-movie soundtracks of the 1960s and steeped in the tradition of artists such as Herb Alpert and the Mike Sammes Singers, the Pops have turned the Oasis song *Wonderwall* into something more Bacharach than Britpop.

Sung by Flowers in a relaxed, smarmy tenor, it is an absolute hoot and is certain to be a major smash, although the producers have overplayed their hand by grafting fake scratches on to the recording, thereby placing a needless pair of inverted commas around the performance.

The tune holds up under the treatment remarkably well, which actually sheds as much light on the phenomenal success of Oasis as it does on the sudden rise of cheesy.

20TH CENTURY

Hilary Finch

■ PIERRE BOULEZ
. . . explosante-fixe . . .
Ensemble Intercontemporain/Boulez
DG 445 833-2★★★

A WORLD premiere recording — and another title which holds the essence of Boulez's energies in a single, resonant image, *explosante-fixe*, written more than 20 years ago in tribute to Stravinsky, dominates this disc from DG's excellent *Boulez 95* series.

The work, which led to numerous projects in the early 1970s, was published as a composition kit. The instruments were to move through a cycle of six "*transitoires*" to arrive at an "*originel*".

The work is made irresistible in the performance of grace and élan it receives from three solo flutes and the Ensemble Intercontemporain. Here, too, is *Notations*, Boulez's earliest published composition, the 12 miniatures for piano he wrote in 1945. Pierre-Laurent Aimard is then joined by Florent Boffard for the scintillating kaleidoscope of Boulez's second book of *Structures* for two pianos.

☐ JUDITH WEIR
Distance and Enchantment
Schubert Ensemble/Domus etc
Collins Classics 14532★★★

LOOK out for the dark forest and the distant light: the visual and verbal images presented by this disc nicely evoke a distinctive and compelling aspect of Judith Weir's work. This world premiere recording of seven pieces of her chamber music has at its heart the eponymous *Distance and Enchantment*, a dark, disquieting reverberation of songs from Northern Ireland and South Uist about the phenomenon of mysterious and sudden disappearance which seems to haunt so much island folklore. It is played by Domus, the chamber ensemble which started life in a geodesic dome and which has at last disbanded after 15 years of outstanding music.

Weir: echoes of folklore

Susan Tomes, its pianist, plays the piano solo *The King of France* which grew from the "little loop of music" originally composed by Weir from a 15th-century Sephardic folk song. Knotted and reknotted into open-weave rhythms and pulses, it gleams out of this superbly engineered recording.

For the Schubert Ensemble of London Weir wrote a piece to accompany its performance of the *Trout Quintet*. *I Broke off a Golden Branch* bounces light off Schubert's own high piano writing and alternately lyrical and troubled undertow of strings. Its second movement is a moving and now timely meditation on Weir's own debt to the folk music of the former Yugoslav nations: the ghost of a Croatian melody is "faintly imprinted" on the sinewy opening material, coloured and appeased by the piano.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ GERMAN
Merrie England
Bronhill/McAlpine/Glossop/Michael Collins Orchestra
Classics for Pleasure 7243 5 68917 2 2 (2 CDs)★★

■ VERDI
Macbeth
Shuard/Gobbi/Royal Opera House Orchestra/Molinari-Pradelli
Bella Voce BLV 107203 AAD (2 CDs)★★

■ GAY
The Beggar's Opera
Morison/Sinclair/Cameron/Brannigan/Pro Arte Orchestra/Sargent
Classics for Pleasure 7243 5 68926 2 0 (2 CDs)★

THREE issues, all on bargain labels, give a very fair indication of what might have been heard in London's opera houses around 1960. The chances of a major revival today of Sir Edward German's *Merrie England* are remote. It needs a huge singing and dancing cast, while the libretto, set in Good Queen Bess's days with many a merry-down-derry amid the patriotic songs, would not be to current taste. But Sadler's Wells had a stab 35 years ago and the CFP recording stems from that production.

The Rosebery Avenue stalwarts are all there. Peter Glossop rolls out the show's best known number, *The Yeomen of England*, with nationalistic fervour. William McAlpine, as Raleigh, shows what an attractive tenor he was when singing of English roses. And Howell Glynne delivers a notable comic turn as one of Shakespeare's boozing actors.

Bella Voce's *Macbeth* was recorded by someone at Covent Garden in April 1960 and has Tito Gobbi in the title role, one which, surprisingly, he never recorded in the studio. The Royal Opera went in for some heavy cutting and Gobbi does not even get the last act *Pietà, rispetto*. But otherwise he gives a grand and gritty performance, well supported by the home team. Amy Shuard, who died far too young, makes a redoubtable consort and conveys a genuine shudder in the Sleepwalking Scene. André Turp's warm tenor is well worth rehearing as Macduff.

Gobbi: grand and gritty

The orchestra thumps along under Molinari-Pradelli and there is a good deal of thumping too from the chorus. This *Macbeth* must be the only one with a "bonus" on the second CD of some extracts from Act II of *Otello*. It comes from Palermo in 1962, where Gobbi was joined by del Monaco.

Malcolm Sargent stuck with the old Pepusch/Austin version of *The Beggar's Opera* in 1955 and allowed plenty of time for spoken dialogue on two quite short LPs. A double cast of actors (mainly from the Old Vic) and singers was employed but little attempt made to match the two sets of voices. John Neville is a much more dashing Macheath in prose than John Cameron in song. But Cameron cheers up in the duets with Elsie Morison's delectable Polly at the end of Act I. Other attractive contributions come from the Peachums (Owen Brannigan and Constance Shacklock) and Monica Sinclair's Lucy. Plus, of course, Sargent himself.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ MARTIN
Maria-Triptychon*; *Six Monologues from Jedermann*; Suite from *Der Sturm
LPO/Bamert
Chandos CHAN 9411★★★

WITH this disc Chandos continues its excellent series of the music of the Swiss composer Frank Martin (1890-1974), presenting works from three decades of the composer's productive life. The *Six Monologues from Jedermann*, dating from 1943, is a setting of passages from Hugo von Hofmannsthal's classic play. David Wilson-Johnson is sturdy of voice, yet sensitive to the doubts, terrors and sorrows of Everyman's spiritual journey.

Martin's opera *Der Sturm* (1952-55) sets Schlegel's translation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, and the composer's own suite offers the overture followed by two monologues for Prospero. Wilson-Johnson is once again passionate in declamation, with an eloquent note of resignation in his delivery.

The *Maria-Triptychon* of 1967-68 is a setting of three Marian prayers (*Ave Maria*, *Magnificat* and *Stabat Mater*) for soprano and orchestra, with the unusual addition of an obbligato solo violin (Duncan Riddell).

Lynda Russell is the excellent vocalist — the part was written for Irmgard Seefried — and Matthias Bamert draws warm, sharply contoured playing from the London Philharmonic, as on the disc as a whole.

☐ RUBBRA
Symphonies Nos 4, 10 & 11
BBC National Orchestra of Wales/Hickox
Chandos CHAN 9401★★★

A PUPIL of Holst but a visionary symphonist in the tradition of Vaughan Williams, Edmund Rubbra (1901-86) is taken seriously by many discerning musicians, including the composer Robert Saxton, who contributes an eloquent programme note to this disc of three symphonies.

Hickox: Rubbra in his blood

The Fourth is perhaps Rubbra's masterpiece, and certainly it is an immensely skilful and imaginative treatment of symphonic form: his impressive musical architecture gives the impression of being created spontaneously, but the structure is as organic as the musical material is gripping. Richard Hickox has this music in his blood and draws a fervent, accomplished performance from the BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

The Tenth and Eleventh are Rubbra's last two symphonies, rounding off the cycle in a surprisingly modest way. The Tenth (*Sinfonia da camera*) is in four short, connected movements, while the Eleventh is a single 15-minute movement. One is often reminded of Hindemith, in the slightly academic cut of the contrapuntal lines and ascetic scoring. Rubbra was never one for extravagant effects of colour, though his scoring always served his serious purpose admirably. Neither of these last symphonies blazes with the intensity of the Fourth, but both are cogently argued and interpreted here in exemplary fashion. The Eleventh is a premiere recording.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

NEW ON VIDEO: Innocents abroad in the 1990s; love in Vienna; Bonnie and Clyde on the rerun

Hop to it: the Brady family leap into the 1990s with their values intact and their enthusiasm unabated in Betty Thomas's endearingly silly *The Brady Bunch Movie*

■ THE BRADY BUNCH MOVIE
CIC, 12, 1995

ENDEARINGLY silly version of American television's domestic sitcom from the early 1970s. The principal joke is that the family's clean-cut values have survived the years unaltered. Betty Thomas's film has no satiric bite, but the send-up passes the time very pleasantly. Gary Cole is particularly droll as the frizzy-headed father, always ready with vacuous advice: "As a wise man once said, 'Wherever you go, there you are!' ". A rental release.

■ MARRIAGE ITALIAN STYLE
Arrow, 12, 1964

VITTORIO DE SICA'S neo-realist classics were far behind him when he directed this very commercial, frothy vehicle for Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni, based on Eduardo De Filippo's play *Filumena*. She is a former prostitute; he is the wealthy Neapolitan she has been trying to marry for 20 years. Not the best vehicle for the performers' charms.

■ ED WOOD
Buena Vista, 15, 1994

WELCOME to the world of Edward D. Wood Jr, a director of vast ambition and little talent, whose 1950s Z-grade follies have now become cult classics. Tim Burton's wonderful film, available to rent, reverently recreates his crazy life. But this is not just a banquet for film buffs. Johnny Depp's portrayal of Wood as an unquenchable optimist is immensely endearing; and the film has a strong emotional core in Wood's devotion to the washed-up Bela Lugosi, magnificently played by Martin Landau. Wood's *Plan 9 from Outer Space* is currently available from Faber & Faber in a box set, packaged with Rudolph Grey's entertaining biography, *Nightmare of Ecstasy*.

■ SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION
Warner, 15, 1993

HATS off to a film that entertains, looks elegant, never mangles its source material (John Guare's play), and gives us something to think about. Stockard Channing shines in her stage role of Ouisa, the smart New Yorker who bears the brunt of the upheaval caused by a smooth-talking imposter claiming to be Sidney Poitier's son. Director Fred Schepisi skilfully orchestrates the cut and thrust of comedy, pathos and philosophical debate; and if the imposter (Will Smith) loses some mystery as the play is opened out, there is compensation in the camera's whirlwind tour of New York's high and low life. Available to rent.

■ BEFORE SUNRISE
Columbia TriStar, 15, 1995

A WANDERING American (Ethan Hawke) invites a French student (Julie Delpy) to join him exploring Vienna and each other. Nothing in Richard Linklater's past films, *Slacker* and *Dazed and Confused*, suggested he could delve deep into young characters and make them more than mouthpieces for off-beat remarks. Yet, helped by Hawke and Delpy's natural performances, he does so with ease, crafting a film as humane and tender as they come in this blood-spattered age. Available to rent.

■ BONNIE AND CLYDE
Faber Video, 18, 1967

THE *Reservoir Dogs* of its day returns to video in a box set that also includes the screenplay by Robert Benton and David Newman. Under Arthur Penn's direction, the film weaves between comedy and tragedy and brushes against fantasy as Warren Beatty, Faye Dunaway and their ragtag gang rob banks and terrorise the American South in the 1930s. A film much imitated, but never surpassed.

GEOFF BROWN

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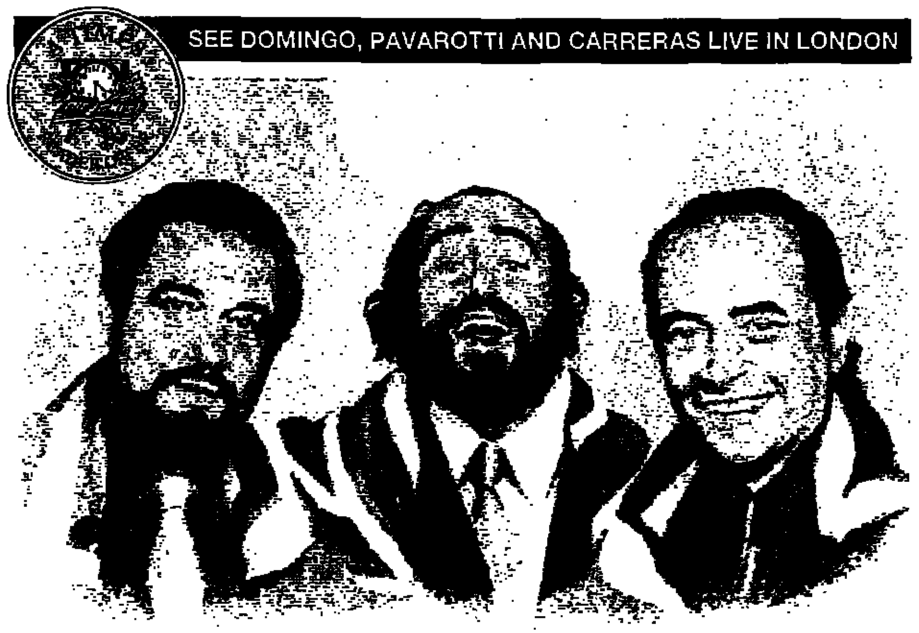

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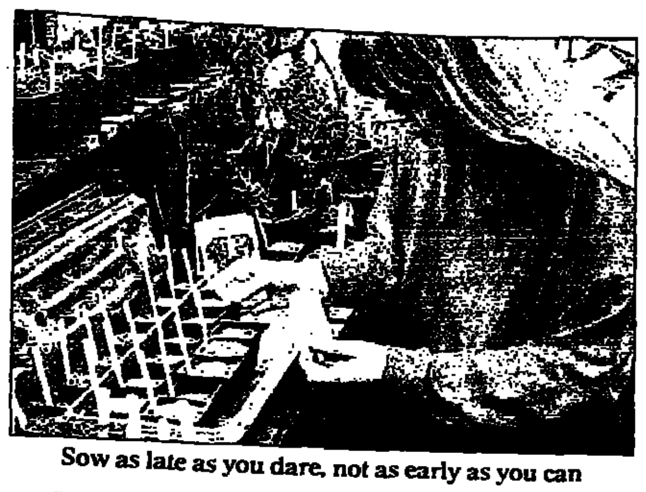
GARDENING

Workouts for weaklings



Sow as late as you dare, not as early as you can

Exercise can make for healthier plants, says **Stephen Anderton**

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

The leggy *Gunnera manicata*, with its giant leaves, is one of the few plants that benefits from very little exercise

If you want a plant to be strong and stocky, then its lifestyle should include plenty of exercise. Not at the gym, but through the movement caused by wind. We tend to think that optimum growth goes hand in hand with maximum shelter, but it is not always so. Optimum shelter for some plants can mean considerable exposure to the wind.

A couple of years ago I visited a newly made garden at Quorndon in Derbyshire. On what had been field on the brow of a hill, the owner was cutting new beds from the turf, and planting trees and shrubs. A sequoiadendron took my eye. This tree, the giant redwood, grows at a phenomenal rate and, on a windy hilltop, was a fine specimen only eight years old from seed and a respectable 10ft high. But it was not the height that was remarkable; it was the girth. Here was a tree only a few years old, yet it had the buttressed trunk of a grandfather — smaller but perfectly formed. The trunk was a slow tapering pyramid, a foot across at ground level. This strength was the result not of sheltered pampering, but of being exposed to the rocking of every wind that blows.

Plants in full exposure automatically strengthen their trunk and root systems to cope with the rocking motion of the wind, making only as much top growth as they can support. The problem comes with containerised trees and shrubs, which have had their root systems reduced to fit a pot; they need a period of physical support, staking or shelter, until their roots have had chance to establish.

What applies to giant redwoods also holds good for any batch of seedlings in a tray. Air movement helps to keep them stocky. On a window ledge with light from only one side there is already tendency enough to become drawn and leggy, and lack of exercise compounds the problem.

Of course, tender seedlings hate cold draughts. But most of the seeds we sow indoors in spring could, at a pinch, be germinated outdoors in the soil when the season had warmed up sufficiently. They would enter a world not only with full overhead light but also with wind. Oh, slugs too, and all those things which make germination under glass easier.

But the moral is this: sowing too soon means that seedlings spend longer in artificial shelter than is good for them. So sow as late as you dare, not as early as you can. Strong, unchecked plants will always catch up with premature weaklings. Proper advice on the pricking out of seedlings is that they should set with plenty of space between them. But buying a strip of tight-packed bedding plants from a garden centre you might think spacing was not so vital. It is. Nurserymen must always compromise ideal spacing with the costs of compost and transport. Home gardeners can give seedlings as much space as they need to make them stocky. Air circulation around a seedling means more light and less likelihood of fungal disease, as well as movement and exercise. The sooner you can place trays of young bedding plants outside, to harden off for a few hours at a time, the better.

I can think of only one example of legginess being useful. Sixty feet below the tree tops, deep in the quarry garden at Belsay Hall, in Northumberland, we grow *Gunnera manicata*, referred to by children as giant rhubarb, since it has the largest leaves of any hardy plant in Britain. It sits not in rich soil but in wet rubble, and its leaves, here in such extraordinary shelter, grow with tropical rather than Northumbrian exuberance. The stalks can be 10ft high and the palms of the leaves 9ft across. Catch these leaves at just the right moment and it is possible to arrange them how you want. In the subterranean calm of the quarry there is almost no wind, and for lack of exercise or movement the leaves remain exactly in position.

- The Times *gardening correspondent, Stephen Anderton, has been voted Garden Writer of the Year 1995. The coveted award was presented by Stefan Buczacki, of Classic FM's* Classic Gardening Forum, *on behalf on the Garden Writers' Guild.*

At the same award ceremony, in London last week, Vivian Russell (see below) won Best General Gardening Book Award for Monet's Garden *(Frances Lincoln £20).*

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Put an open-ended cloche over clumps of Christmas roses to produce clean flowers for picking.*
- *Pick flowers of Iris* unguicularis *and* lazica.
- *Apply tar oil wash to dormant fruit trees and bushes, to kill eggs of next years pests.*
- *Keep indoor azaleas in a cool room. 50F/10C is ideal for a long display of flower.*

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q **Last spring a root of ginger in my pantry sprouted, and it is now a 2ft high ginger plant with three stems. I potted it in good compost and keep it damp in a west window, but the leaf tips tend to discolour. How do I care for this plant?** — Mrs R. E. C. Rees, Haslemere, Surrey.

A Culinary ginger, *Zingiber officinale*, looks rather like a very narrow-leaved canna, but has spikes of flower a foot long in muddy purples and yellow. It grows 3ft tall and dies down to its rhizome in winter, like a bearded iris. The rhizome should sit on the surface of the soil, and the compost be kept almost dry in winter at about 55F/13C. In summer it likes moist warm conditions but not direct sunlight. A north-facing bathroom is suitable.

Dry air and direct sun are probably the cause of your damaged leaf tips. When necessary, divide the rhizomes in spring, and water only sparingly until growth has properly commenced.

Starting ginger into growth the first time is not always easy, as it can go mouldy before it begins to root. Find the freshest ginger root you can. Press a rhizome 2-4in long into a potful of just-moist compost, and leave in a warm airy room to show willing. Polythene coverings too quickly lead to rot when the rhizome is completely rootless. If you have any fungicide mixed, a quick dunk and dry off before planting might be beneficial.

Q **My mature magnolia has set a considerable number of seeds this year. There has been just a single pod in other years, and the birds have eaten the seeds. I have saved some seed this year, but how do I germinate them?** — W. E. G. Manning, Stanmore, Middlesex.

A Mature magnolia seed pods are an extraordinary sight, like squeezed handfuls of green putty and, when the individual compartments split open, the orangey-red seeds dangle out on threads to tempt the birds. Mix your seed with a couple of handfuls of 50:50 sand and peat mixture, and put it in a clear polythene bag. Seal the bag and hang it somewhere frosty for the winter where the birds will not peck it open.

In March move the bag to a warm place, a greenhouse or sunny window, and watch for signs of the seeds germinating. As soon as you see any tiny white roots appearing, carefully open the bag, spread out the contents, and prick out the germinating seeds into small pots or a modular tray. A compost which is not soil-based will suit them best at this stage.

- *Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *regrets that enclosures cannot be returned.*

Dream of a no-work garden

A writer's plot for a self-growing haven

It had seemed a great idea at the time: earning a living doing what I liked best in places where I felt happiest. But I didn't realise that becoming a gardening writer and photographer would mean the sacrifice of my own garden.

During the bountiful months when gardens are glorious, I am far from home, squinting enviously through my lens at the horticultural beauties in other people's gardens. During the winter months, I am once again the mistress of my own garden — a sodden, ragged, weedy wilderness.

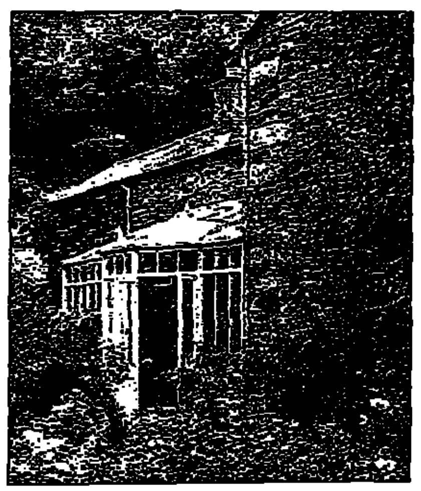
The truth is that, although I love my garden, I am hardly ever in it. Those early years of mothering it like one of my children, are over. I had planted it indiscriminately, at breakneck speed, and in ignorance. Eighteen years later, I am enjoying the luxury of stepping back and unpicking the whole garden bit by bit and starting again in slow, considered steps to make a garden that doesn't need me.

I used to think that a garden was all about having the plants you wanted. It turned out that I couldn't have any of them. Here in Cumbria, I had acid loam under my feet and a blanket of grey cloud above my head that protected me from severe frosts but also spewed out 90 inches of rain a year. Plants grew like magic mushrooms or snuffed it. The happy ones seeded themselves everywhere, whether I liked it or not. It was soon obvious that my garden would never be graced with the tall, wavy elegance of the eremerus, or exotically coloured by the bearded irises, or a picture of charm produced by subtly hued self-seeding poppies.

Chemical sprays were of no use to me. The years of dragging a plastic sprayer around the old-fashioned roses had never stopped them balling in the summer rain, aborting the flowers. I began to wonder what my role in all this was.

If I couldn't grow what I wanted, the next best thing was to go with what wanted to grow, and to fashion the aesthetics around the ethos of the garden. I made two rules: there would be no more spraying, and no one would be employed to look after the garden in my absence. My relationship with it would remain personal and exclusive.

I had photographed enough gardens to know that the ones I loved best were those offering strong, simple images. My idea was to reduce the garden to a few marvellous plants that did exceptionally well, and to go for simple effects.



The author's garden in Cumbria

I replaced one border along a boundary wall with a bank of the spectacular *Rhododendron loderi* 'King George V', underplanted with distinctive hellebores. Discouraged by the annual balling of the old roses, I began replacing them with species that needed no pruning or spraying. Although I rarely see them in flower, they are always glowing with healthy, decorative foliage.

I had planted several varieties of species roses some years back, on the roadside in front of my house (in holes I hacked out of tar). They bear the brunt of all the Borrowdale traffic, the rain and wind; they took the drought in their stride last summer. The show of hips now is lovely. From performers like these, I am slowly rebuilding the garden.

The potager set in the middle of my small garden would have to go, but to be replaced with what? All that seemed to thrive without a single ailment were the alpine strawberries I had raised from seed. The years passed, the potager grew ever wilder, I could not think of a solution. Inspired by the huge, sturdy topiary bird planted 70 years ago that now dominated my garden I had, over the years, been planting box and yew in strategic spots. Clipping them into the same dome shapes, they would rise over the next 20 years like puddings in an oven, and transform the garden completely by giving it a design and volume.

Having spent most of the last two summers peering at old roses in six countries across two continents for a book I am writing, I found a new love: the china and tea roses, whose subtle beauty I had overlooked. Parents of the modern hybrid tea, they flower continuously. Through the intimate eye of the camera, I was seduced most of all by the single varieties, with the silky translucence of their petals and the ephemeral, loose shape of their blooms which sit on their airy foliage like butterflies. Favourites include 'Mutabilis', 'Archduc Joseph', 'La Vesuve' and 'Dainty Bess'. Their colours seem more muted in shades of pink, apricot and copper.

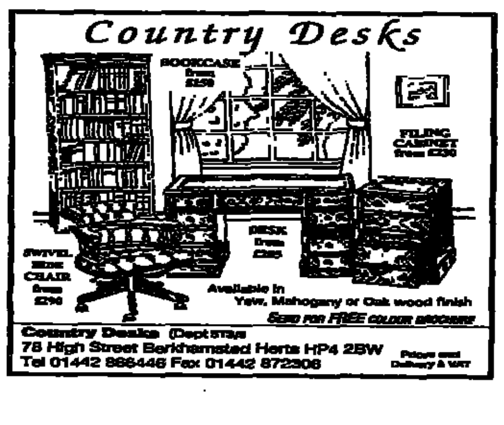
The solution to the long central sweep of my garden, including the potager, came suddenly: I would make it all a topiary garden of simple domes in yew and box and, in between, plant groups of selected chinas and teas, which do not grow higher than 3-4ft. The dark green yew would set off the delicate flowers and curious colours. The roses would be underplanted with a carpet of the alpine strawberries, which would deter weeds.

Until the new roses arrive and work begins, I set off up the fells to visit an even lovelier, even simpler, untended garden where waterlilies grow naturally on a nearby tarn surrounded by a craggy landscape of soft mauve heather.

VIVIAN RUSSELL

- *Recommended china roses: 'Fellenburg', 'Gruss an Teplitz', 'Bloomfield Abundance', 'Louis Philippe', 'Madame Laurette Messimy' and 'Cramoisi Supérieur'. Teas: 'Général Schablikine', 'Lorraine Lee', 'Monsieur Tillier' and 'Doctor Grill'. Older hybrid teas: 'Mrs Oakley Fisher', 'Ellen Willmott' and 'Dainty Bess'.*

HOMES & GARDENS



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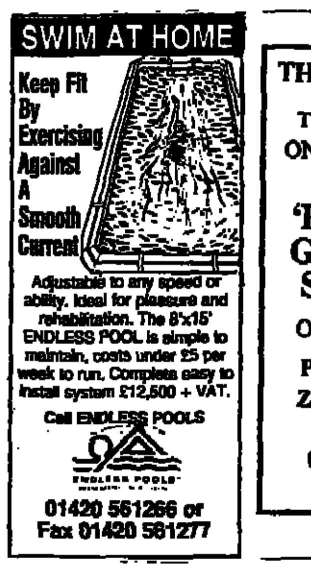

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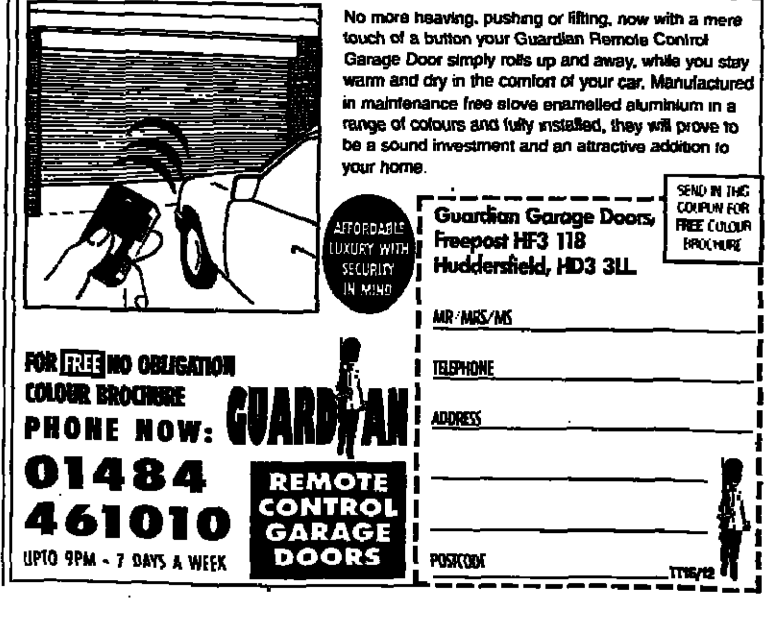

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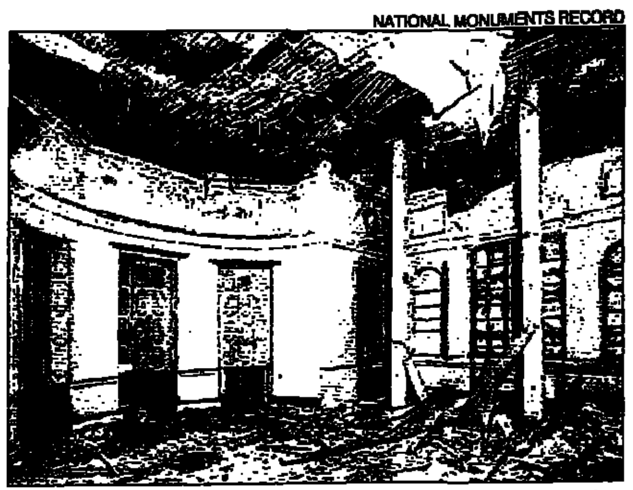
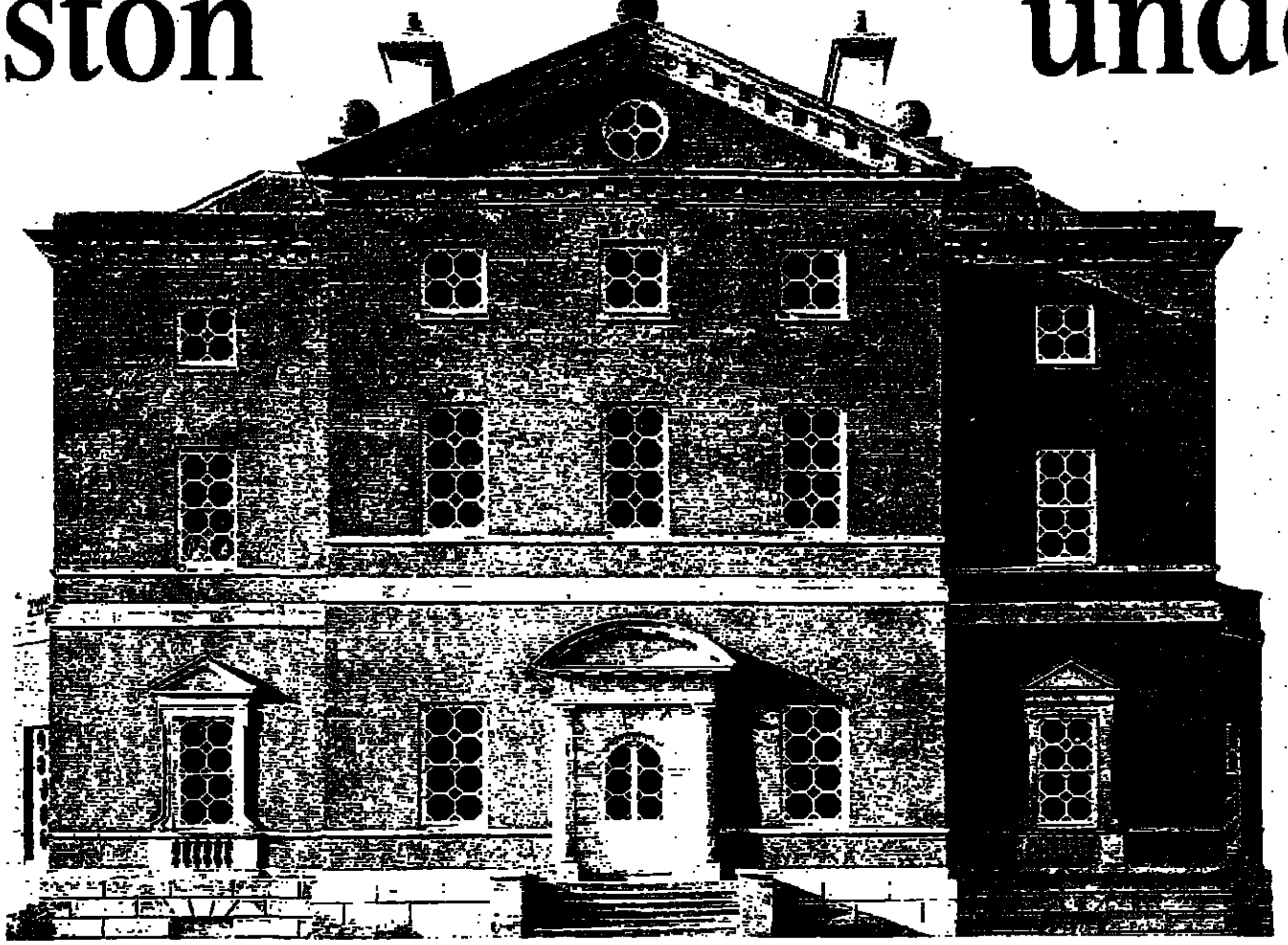
Next week an almost restored architectural gem may find that mining is to resume underneath it. **Rachel Kelly** reports

Barlaston undermined

NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD



Before: inside Barlaston Hall as the new owners found it



After: the 18th-century mansion near Stoke-on-Trent on which more than £1 million has been spent on restoration

JOHN POTTER

A craftsman restoring plasterwork at Barlaston Hall

One of the country's most ambitious architectural restoration projects, and a *cause célèbre* in the conservation world, is threatened months before the completion of a 15-year work programme

For the past three years, Carol and James Hall have slaved over Barlaston Hall, a Grade I listed, 18th-century gem near Stoke-on-Trent in Staffordshire. When they arrived with their two daughters in 1992, doors were broken, floors in need of repair, and every room was covered in the dust of smashed ornamental plasterwork.

Now the house has been made watertight, the floor joists renewed, the roof repaired, and the exquisite plasterwork and woodwork restored by craftsmen overseen by English Heritage.

The Halls's work followed 12 years of emergency repairs by SAVE Britain's Heritage, which bought the house for £1 in 1980 from its then owners, the Wedgwood company, which had bought the property before the Second World War as model factory estate and which was threatening to demolish the house as unsound.

More than £1 million of public money from the National Coal Board, the Commission on Historic Buildings and Monuments and English Heritage has been spent during restoration. Crucially, the house has now been underpinned against mining subsidence — the reason for its dereliction in the first place. Marcus Binney, chairman of SAVE Britain's Heritage, describes the Halls's efforts as "heroic". But their heroism could prove pointless. The privatised mining company Coal Investments has applied to Staffordshire County Council for planning permission to extend mining to Barlaston from its colliery at Hem Heath. The company plans to extract more coal from existing seams which run like a rabbit warren under the whole area, threatening the return of subsidence.

Coal Investment has produced a report called "Subsidence Assessment", now on view at Barlaston village library. The report sets out the stresses to which Barlaston Hall will be subject and admits that, because the house sits astride a geological fault, "the possibility of fault reactiviation cannot be totally discounted".

Despite saying that it is impossible to know the extent of potential damage, the company expects that it will be "within tolerable bounds". The report is silent on what is considered tolerable, and to whom.

"I am appalled that mining is even being considered under Barlaston, and fear that 15 years of restoration work is being put at risk," says Mr Hall, a trustee of SAVE and a management consultant. "Coal Investments initially *did not* even visit the property to assess the likely scale of damage. It can have had no understanding of how easily the intricate new plaster and woodwork could be damaged beyond repair."

> *‘I am appalled that mining is being considered under the hall, and fear that 15 years of restoration work is at risk’*

Apart from the Halls, about 3,000 residents of Barlaston village, which surrounds the house, could also suffer if mining restarts. "Eleven houses have already been lost because of subsidence produced by earlier mining work by British Coal," Mrs Hall claims. "Family homes could be blighted. It could prove impossible for them to sell or get mortgages."

John Warwick of Coal Investments, says: "I can't verify the exact number of houses but, yes, some houses have collapsed because of faults. But we have never mined at Barlaston before. That was work by British Coal." The company confirms that there will be mining directly beneath the Barlaston Hall and the village if permission is granted. But it points out that the Coal Board installed jacks and sophisticated foundation systems capable of supporting the building despite subsidence.

The company chairman, Malcolm Edwards, says that without planning permission to reopen a second face, job losses at the pit will be inevitable. He adds that, technically, the company already had planning permission, but this permission is a matter of legal dispute between the company and the council, which denies that legal permission exists.

Instead of fighting an expensive legal battle, the company is reapplying for permission. The matter will be resolved at next Tuesday's planning meeting at the council.

"The ruin that was Barlaston should be open to the public next summer," Mr Binney says. "Three months ago I achieved a great ambition: I slept between comfortable sheets in Barlaston, the house that I and other crazies had bought for £1 in 1980. Then the house was falling into a coal mine. Now it is a triumph of restoration. The Halls were encouraged to do all this work because they thought there would be no more mining. It would be a travesty if mining were to start again." He is appalled that the battles that he and others have fought to save Barlaston are now in jeopardy.

It has cost £350,000 to restore the main rooms and the grand staircase to their former magnificence. English Heritage recognised the exceptional nature of Barlaston's restoration by making an offer of a 75 per cent grant, in return for which the Halls will open the house. It is harder to say what it has cost the Halls personally. They moved into what was basically a building site and lived in a small flat in the basement. There were no staircases, so they had to use scaffolding to get to the upper floors.

Mrs Hall, a Yorkshirewoman, says: "We bought the house because it is is stunning." It is indeed. This Palladian villa is among the most outstanding examples of Sir Robert Taylor's architecture. But ask Mrs Hall why she took on the work, and she says: "That is like asking a mountaineer why he climbs a mountain. It was there. It was a wreck and somebody needed to do something with it."

The Halls estimate that they have spent £300,000 of their own money on the house, in addition to the £269,342 English Heritage grant and the £300,000 purchase price.

What do they feel now that all their labours could prove in vain? "Until a couple of weeks ago, I thought we had done it. This," says Mrs Hall with magnificent understatement, "is bad timing. But we're not going to give up now."

- *For those in the Staffordshire coalfield area concerned about their homes. HR Surveys (01782 657534) can advise on compensation claims. Keith Lovewell, of Roger Follwell & Partner (01782 615530), chartered surveyor and mining subsidence compensation, covers the North Staffordshire area.*
- *On a national basis, the Coal Authority, Berry Hill, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire (01623 427162), has has taken on the responsibilities held by the former Coal Board. It is ultimately responsible to the Department of Trade and Industry and is obliged to repair subsidence damage to property if the subsidence proves to be a result of mining work.*
- *Coal Investments (01782 658906) welcomes inquiries to its production director, John Warwick, or chief surveyor, Mervyn Jones.*
- *SAVE Britain's Heritage (0171-228 336) publishes a list of buildings at risk. Those interested in rescuing historic buildings can also contact the conservation officers at their local councils.*

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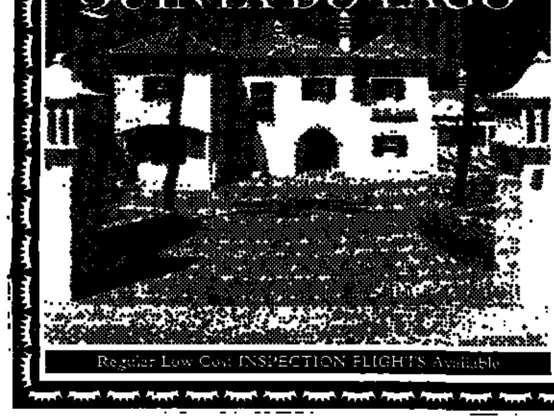

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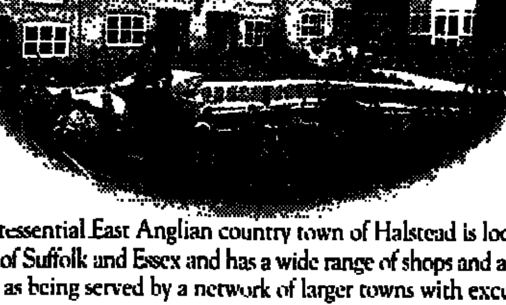

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After an extraordinary summer, the Hardens can enjoy the silence of the house again now that An y Hopkins and his film crew have departed

Shooting drama at Welsh house

From the moment Sir Anthony Hopkins stepped out of his helicopter in the grounds of Plas Nanhoron on the Llyn Peninsula, it was obvious he had found the ideal location for *August*, the film in which he stars and makes his directorial début.

A Regency-listed house built in 1803 in a 600-acre estate in north Wales, Plas Nanhoron had escaped Victorian additions and alterations because the agricultural depression that hit Wales in the 1890s had left little cash for such refurbishments, according to the Hardens, whose family has owned the land for 600 years.

David and Bettina Harden were well into a comprehensive restoration of the house when they found themselves supporting what Mrs Harden calls "London's largest charity", otherwise known as Lloyd's. For the owners of a working farm and a 15-bedroom house in need of repair, the prospect of a film contract was an unexpected windfall.

August, which is a transposition into a Welsh setting of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, will be premiered in America in February.

The search for locations had begun months earlier with inquiries to the Gwynedd film unit, a body set up by the local authority to promote media interest in the area. When they were approached, the Hardens held a family conference. Because filming would take place in the school holidays, Mr and Mrs Harden consulted their children. Matty, 11, and Eddie, nine, thought it would be a "serious laugh". And it was.

But the decision to let a film crew into your home should not be taken lightly. The Hardens immediately consulted the Historic Houses Association (HHA), of which they are members, who advised them to read *Film and Photography for Historic Houses and Gardens*, a 75-page manual of dos and don'ts. The best advice they received was to appoint an agent to represent their interests.

Rooms at Plas Nanhoron were adapted to suit the script

In the event, their agent, a technical adviser for the HHA, negotiated a contract for £600 a day for filming in the grounds and £1,200 for filming in the house. On the rare occasions that night work was involved, these figures were doubled.

Mrs Harden's most important piece of advice to others is that, even if the pantechnicons are at the gates, don't admit them until a contract has been signed. "We were still negotiating by fax 24 hours before the film crew was due," she says.

Only once did she wonder if they had made the right decision, when her 18th-century furniture and pictures were banished to an attic to be replaced by lorry-loads of hideous, heavy Victorian pieces. Lace curtains appeared in every window and the whole house turned brown as if it had been dipped in coffee. Her drawing room, for instance, disappeared under beige wallpaper decorated with brown roses. "I actually felt sick for about a week," she says.

There were compensations though: at the end of a day's filming, Sir Anthony, an accomplished musician, would relax in their drawing room and play the piano.

At first the film-makers had been interested only in the granite house and its gracious canopied veranda. Then, it emerged, they needed a walled garden, a park and even a quarry — all of which the Hardens could provide on the estate. They also had 19th-century photographs of the property, which proved invaluable to the design team.

The Hardens decided it was imperative that one of them was in attendance at all times. "A day didn't pass when there wasn't a problem," Mrs Harden says. Sometimes the props department might need a Victorian fan or children's toy, and she would disappear into the attic and re-emerge with the genuine article.

Each service involved an addition to the final fee. "It became a game to see what we could extract from the film-makers," she says. Their contract contained provision for an immediate £200 fine if anyone was caught smoking or eating in the house. Rather to Mr Harden's chagrin, no one ever transgressed the rule.

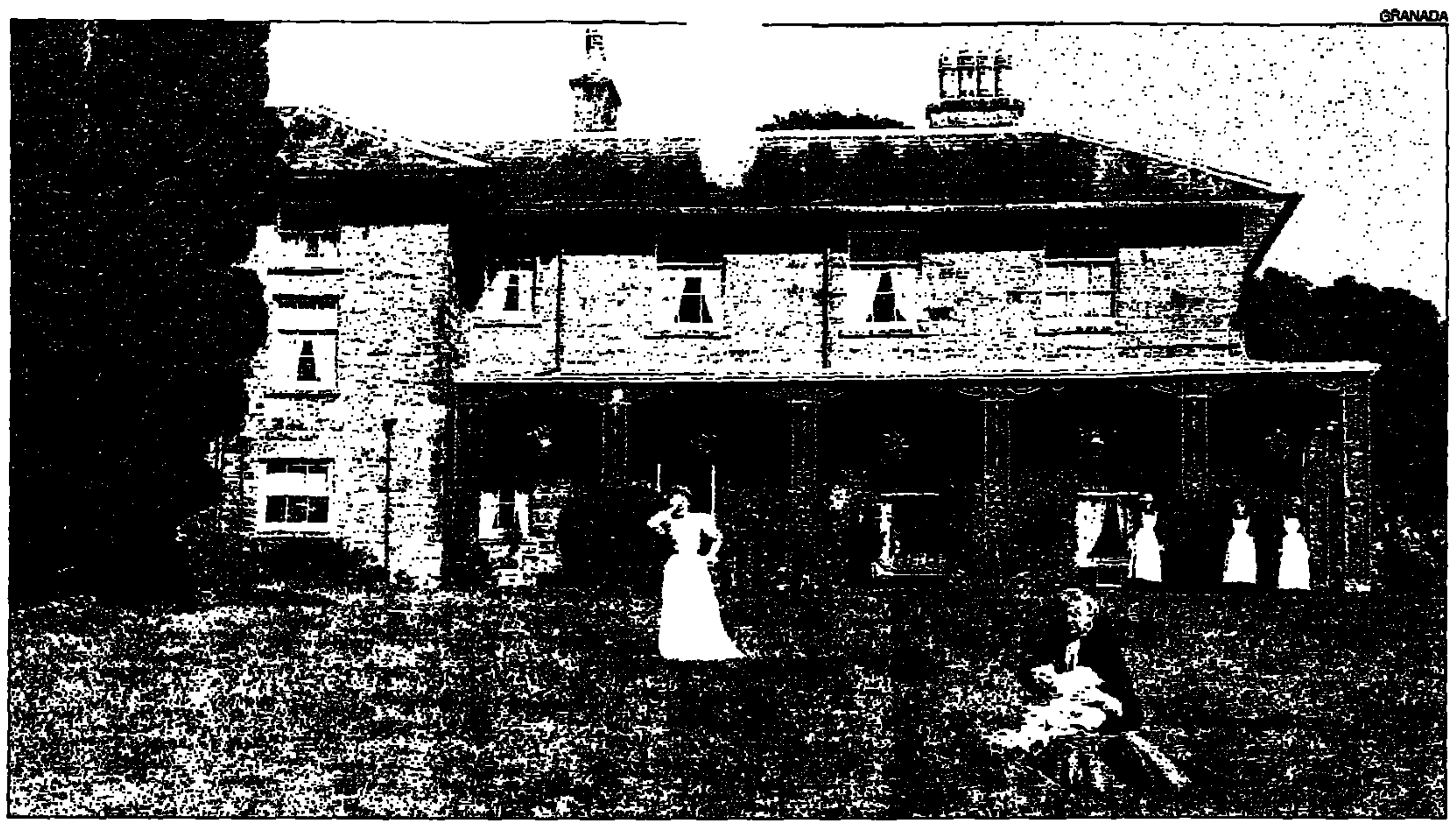
On at least one occasion Mrs Harden's rural nous came to the film crew's rescue. Such as when she saw the set strewn with ducks and pheasants following a shooting party. In August? "Think again," she told them. It was illegal then, as it is now, to shoot these birds until September. And one Sunday, when the shops were closed, she made Welshcakes 12 successive times for repeated takes of a tea party scene in the garden.

All the money they received from the film company was spent on jobs such as replacing roof leading, renewing the cast iron veranda pillars and a splendid refurbishment of the dining room. The cost of returning the house interior to its pre-filming state, which was carried out by local craftsmen, was negotiated in advance.

In September the crew removed their hanging baskets of geraniums, £1,500 worth of rose bushes, the imitation ivy, five tonnes of gravel they had spread on the drive, and themselves, allowing the Harden family to return to normal life.

By way of compensation for losing limbs from a favourite tree to make way for a swing, Mrs Harden had requested a "Polar Bear" rhododendron. She was given three. Now, every August when the bushes are in flower, the Hardens will remember Sir Anthony and the golden summer of 1994.

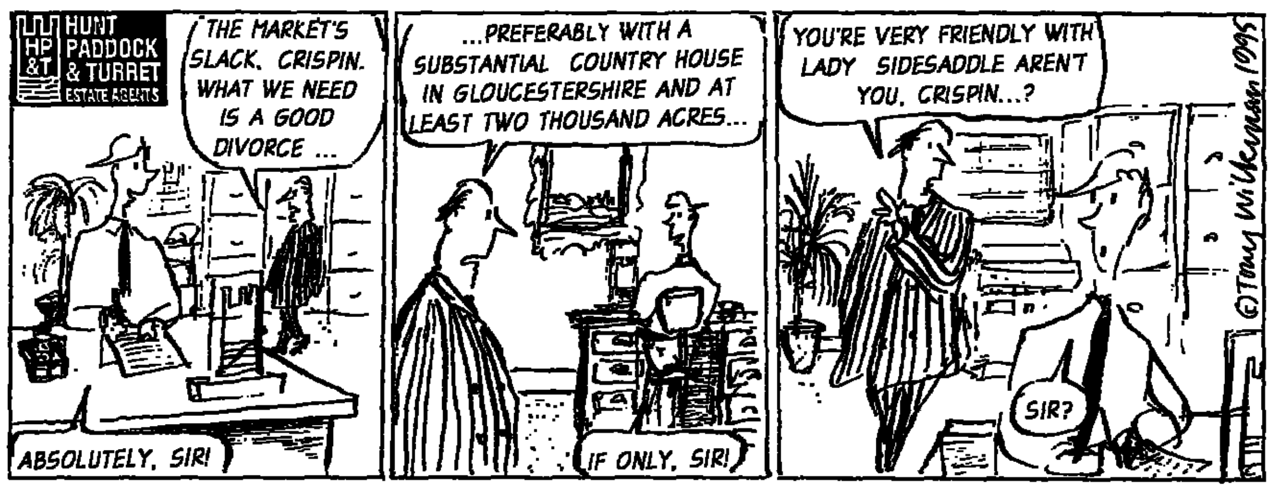
ALAN ROAD



GRANADA

Kate Burton (left), Rhian Morgan and Sir Anthony Hopkins in a scene from *August*. The Harden family home proved an ideal location for the film

● Film and Photography for Historic Houses and Gardens *(£15.95, or £12.95 to members) is available by mail order. Write to the Historic Houses Association, 2 Chester Street, London SW1X 7BB, or telephone 0171-259 5688.*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KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705

MAIDA VALE, W9

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Freehold £360,000

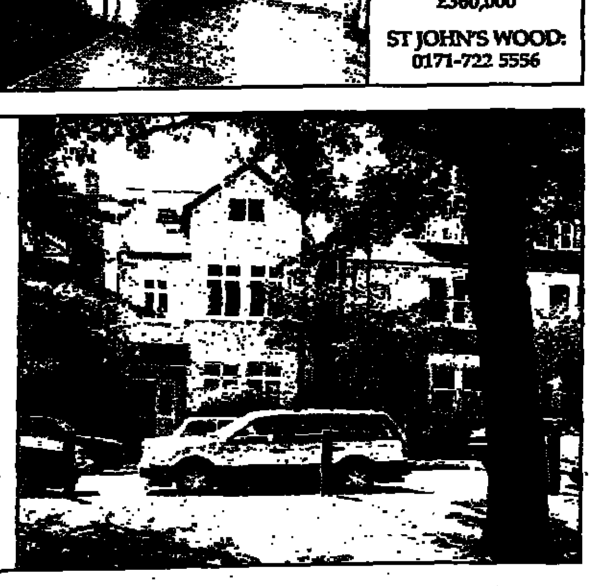
ST JOHN'S WOOD: 0171-722 5556

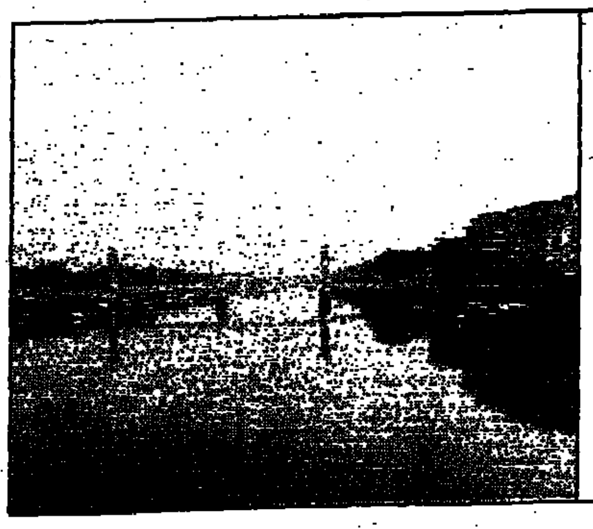
DORLCOTE ROAD, SW18

A delightful Victorian detached house on the "Toastrack" overlooking Wandsworth Common. 5 beds, 3 baths, recep, kit, conservatory, cellar, loft, front garden, south facing 28m (93ft) rear garden.

Freehold £445,000

WANDSWORTH: 0181-871 3033





RIVERSIDE ONE, SW11

With spectacular views of the River and Chelsea, an interesting sixth floor flat in an exciting building circa 1989, designed and occupied by a world famous architect. 2 beds, 2 baths, 13m x 7.2m (42.7' x 23.6') recep, kit, clkrm.

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BATTERSEA: 0171-228 0174

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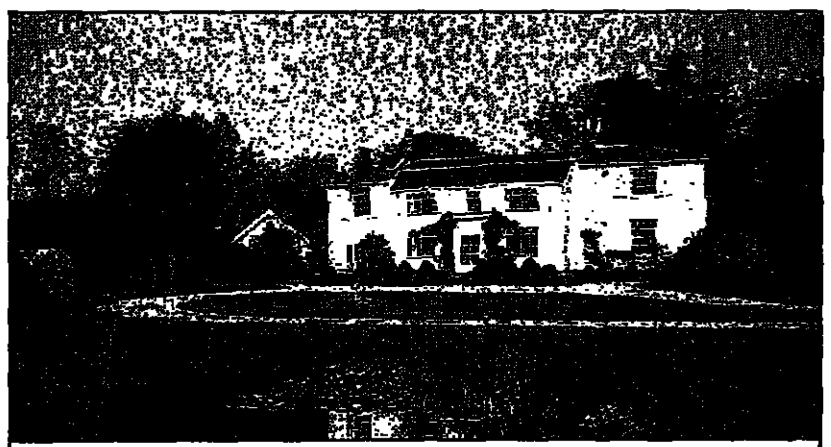

SUFFOLK – Eye Price Guide: £450,000

A well presented Georgian house on the edge of the town. 5 beds, dressing rm, 2 baths, power shower rm, 3 receptions, kitchen, conservatory/b'fast rm. Staff flat, indoor swimming pool, pond, gardens and grounds. About 1.62 ha (4 acres).

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HAMPSHIRE - Beaulieu Price Guide: £395,000

A Victorian country house set in delightful grounds with a hard tennis court and useful outbuildings. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, conservatory, kitchen. Range of outbuildings including garaging and former stables. Just under 0.81 ha (2 acres).

LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

OXFORDSHIRE
Charney Bassett

On the edge of the village overlooking open countryside, an early 18th century listed barn with an exceptional interior. 4 beds, 2 baths, recep hall, 2 receps, kit & b'fast rm, utility rm, clkrm, bull pen, outbuildings. About 0.2 ha (0.5 acre).

Price Guide: £325,000

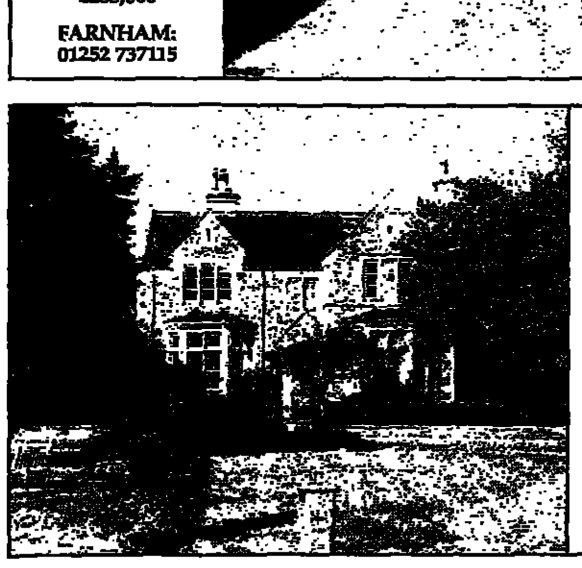
OXFORD: 01865 311522

HAMPSHIRE
Crondall

With a charming secluded garden overlooking the golf course, an attractive house quietly located near the village centre. 3 beds, 2 baths, recep/dining hall, 3 receps, clkrm, Smallbone kitchen, double garage, summerhouse/studio.

Price Guide: £285,000

FARNHAM: 01252 737115



WILTSHIRE
Biddestone

Overlooking the village green and duck pond, a delightful double-fronted house in a very pretty village. 4 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, kitchen, utility rm, box rm, wine cellar, double garage, garden.

Price Guide: £265,000

CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244

HAMPSHIRE
Newtown
Common

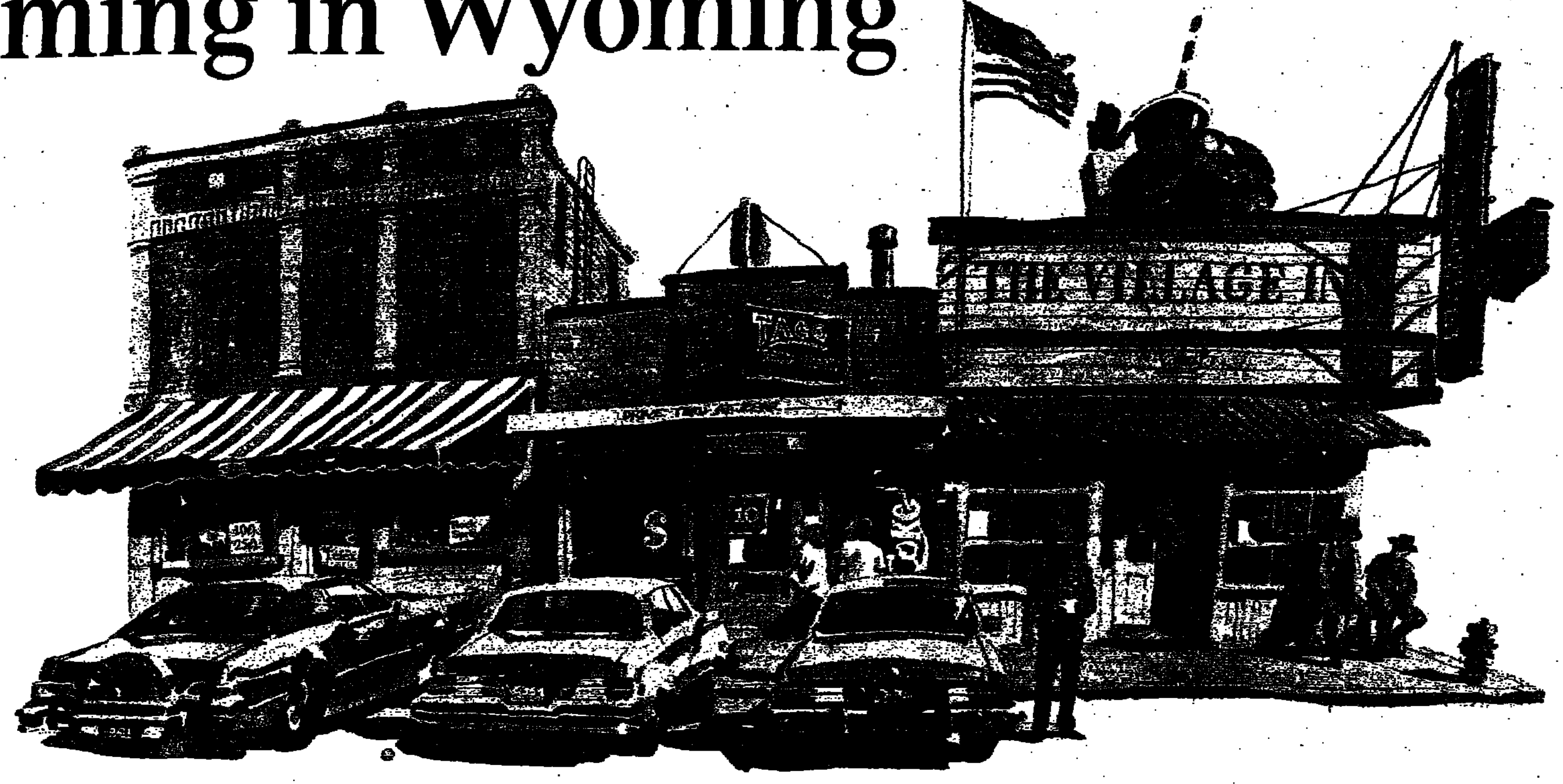
A spacious period family house in a quiet location 3 miles from Newbury (Paddington approx 50 mins). 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 receptions, kitchen, boiler rm, integral garage, gardens.

Price Guide: £275,000

NEWBURY: 01635 523225

AMERICA: What's the best thing to do when you get to Rock Springs? Leave, says **Douglas Kennedy** ...

Roaming in Wyoming


MATTHEW COOK

It was nine o'clock on a Wednesday night, and the town of Rock Springs, Wyoming, was shuttered. Out cold. Down for the count. "Ain't much to do here," said the pimply projectionist in the local cinema, where I was the only member of the audience, and where he also doubled as the ticket clerk and usher. "Tell you true, we got a saying round these parts: 'Rock Springs is so dead they had to shoot someone to start a cemetery'."

I thought he was being a little harsh. After all, Rock Springs did have a drive-in taco restaurant (which was offering a $1.99 two-for-one special on *burritos*). And a Holiday Inn, with a lounge bar featuring acts of the "Four Jacks and a Jill" ilk. And a plastic prefab diner called the Village Inn, with bright lights, laminated menus (with gaudy photos of Blueberry Waffles à la Mode), and a collection of hairy waitresses.

After four hours on the Interstate from Utah — a long haul through crimson-coloured mesa and open prairie — Rock Springs was not the reward I'd hoped for after all that monotonous driving. Especially as this nowhere town was nothing more than a ten-mile strip of suburban subdivisions and fast-food restaurants.

The manager of the Village Inn *wore a short-sleeved polyester shirt* and a clip-on tie. He said: "Sure nice t'have ya," as I entered. He wasn't so friendly towards the next customer who arrived — a dude in black who looked like a refugee from a bad Italian western. Stringbean thin with black jeans, a black Stetson and a black 'kerchief tied loosely around his neck, he caused all five customers in the Village Inn to stare up at him as he slammed through the front door and slid into a booth near the cash till.

Everyone's eyes grew a little wider when The Dude began to scribble notes on the back of a serviette and then handed them to cashier.

Oh God, I thought, he's probably some deranged escapee from the local laughing academy, with a 0.357 Magnum in his rucksack. And, undoubtedly, the note that the cashier was now passing to the manager contained some impossible demand, such as: "I want to take this diner to Havana!"

But instead of reaching behind the till for his firearm, the manager went over to The Dude, chatted briefly, read another note that he quickly scrawled, then handed him a styrofoam cup of take-away coffee, and escorted him out into the chilly night.

And when he passed my table a few minutes later, I asked the manager: "What was that all about?"

"Sad story," the manager said. "He's just had a tracheostomy and he's hitching east, 'cause his momma's dying of cancer in Tulsa."

It sounded like a country-and-western song. And it also was a reminder (as if I needed one) that the best thing about Rock Springs was the road heading north out of town.

The road was labelled Route 191, a two-lane blacktop that sliced its way up across tundra over a mile high. As I quickly discovered it was, without question, one of the great American backroads, as it brought me through an Alpine terrain of rugged peaks set amid a vast plateau of vertiginous pines and glassy lakes. The road was free of billboards, hamburger outlets, car dealerships, or any other detritus of American monoculture. And for more than an hour I saw no other vehicle in this hushed, solitary landscape.

The silence was immense. But it was the sheer scale of this domain that held me mesmerised. This was the American West of myth — wide open spaces, epic grandeur, and not a caravan park in sight.

It couldn't last. And, of course, it didn't — as Route 191 eventually brought me through the ski resort of Jackson Hole — very much a "New West" town of the "Them Armanis you wearin' pardner?" variety. Just about every street corner in Jackson Hole had a frozen yoghurt emporium and a factory outlet shop trading in jeans from The Gap and shirts from Ralph Lauren. Its civic architecture was dandified Dodge City, there were ersatz saloons, and a café which offered a dozen brands of bagels. I loitered for an hour, and found myself wondering if the frontiersmen who established this community a century or so ago actually lived on Brie (as there were something like 14 varieties in delicatessens around town). Eventually I decided that if I ever wrote a book about Jackson Hole, the title would definitely be: *How The West Was Gentrified*.

So I hit the road north again, and within five minutes of leaving town, I was in Grand Teton country. The most dramatic mountain range in the United States — a chain of craggy summits, scraping the sky at 13,000ft, sending a chill through me as I surveyed their glacial, forbidding silhouettes.

I pulled the car off the road and walked down a little trail that led to a perfect, widescreen view of the Tetons in all their menacing glory. Not a sign of habitation on the horizon. And, for around ten minutes, I was very much alone.

Then I heard a car pull up near mine, an evangelist screaming from its radio about "*the wonder working power of the blood of the Lamb*", as if he were advertising a laundry detergent.

The radio snapped off, car doors opened and closed, and footsteps crunched down the path. A venerable couple in their sixties — both in polyester windbreakers and rimless glasses — joined me.

"Howdy, brother," the woman said by way of a greeting. I nodded back. We stood in silence and admired the view. Finally the man spoke: "God's country, don't you think?"

I so wanted to contradict him. But — staring out at all that Wyoming majesty — I had to admit that he had a point.

The American West

☐ The author was a guest of British Airways Holidays (01293 722727), which offers seven day fly/drive deals to San Francisco from £409 per person. *His rental car was provided by Alamo. He* stayed at the Holiday Inns in Rock Springs, Wyoming (double room approximately £41 per night, plus 7 per cent tax) and Cody (double room around £32 per night, plus 5 per cent tax). Reservations: 0800 897121.

☐ You really must have a car to explore the vastness of Wyoming. For those who want desert and mesa, stick to the southern part of the state — though you will discover that, outside of the Clint Eastwood scenery, the towns that dot this cormer of the state are eminently missable. The high north of Wyoming, however, remains one of North America's great scenic spectacles — and Yellowstone Park is without question, the foremost wilderness within the contiguous 48 states. One warning though — while the state's high north is superb skiing country, be prepared for sub-zero temperatures and tricky road conditions during the seven long months (November to May) of Wyoming winter. During the summer, on *the other hand, you will find yourself dodging* half the retired population of the United States, all of whom apparently pile into their camper vans and migrate to Yellowstone. Fortunately the park is so huge that you can easily dodge them and find your own empty 100 acres of American Eden.

☐ Douglas Kennedy's new book, *In God's Country*, is published in January (Abacus, £7.99).

SEASONAL TRAVEL TIPS

☐ Exodus (0181-675 5550) is offering a week in Andalusia, Spain for New Year, in a converted farmhouse with a restaurant and pool. December 30 to January 6 costs £550 per person, including return flights to Malaga, transfers, breakfast and evening meals.

☐ Christmas at the five-star Turnberry Hotel (01655 331000) on the Ayrshire coast in Scotland costs from £122 per person per night, including breakfast and dinner. Activities include gymnasium, tennis, riding and golf.

☐ Skibound (01273 696960) is offering last-minute deals on skiing in the French Alps.

Slope off for Christmas

Departing December 26 and staying in the two-star Hotel Aiglon in Morzine, seven nights costs £299 per person including return flights from Gatwick to Lyon, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, four-course evening meal and wine. Ski pass (approximately £80) and boot and *ski hire not included.*

☐ The Lodge Hotel at Vail, Colorado (0181-568 8366) is offering a 40 per cent discount on room rates for those who stay for four nights or more between January 13-31. A double room costs £167 per night, including breakfast.

☐ Spend Christmas on the spice island of Zanzibar with Explore Worldwide (01252 319448). The 17-day escorted tour includes a visit to the Selous Game reserve in Tanzania followed by a flight to Zanzibar for snorkling and sightseeing. Departing December 29, the tour costs £1,595 per person including return flights from Heathrow, most meals and tour guides.

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THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

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... plus a tour through the brochurised beauty of the leisure state; and the treasures of tiny Nantucket

Keys to Florida's success

WORLD PICTURES

Key West is famous for its "conch" houses, the distinctive local style of architecture

Some people like holidays where there is a lot to look at or a great deal to do: holidays which stimulate the intellect or the imagination. Other people prefer places where they don't have to think, make decisions, or judgments, about anything at all. If you fall into this second category, Florida Keys is the place for you.

If you look at a map of America, Florida Keys is the southernmost straggly bit of north America, and it consists of several small islands which disappear abruptly, like ink running out before a sentence is completed, into the Atlantic Ocean above Cuba. The name "Keys" comes from the Spanish word *cayos*, which means reef or islet.

Come prepared. The state religion in Florida is leisure, and it requires tolerance and stamina of visitors from dingy climates and recession-hit countries, as well as loud shirts and high-factor sunscreen. Everyone says, if you go to Florida, "do be careful, they shoot the British tourists"; and it's true, they do from time to time and the danger is real (although the violent attacks on tourists have occurred almost entirely in the Miami and Disney areas). But you are more likely to be terrorised by Florida's determinedly cheery attitude than by looking down the barrel of a gun.

We didn't linger in Miami but drove straight to the Florida Keys. First stop was Chesapeake Resort on Islamorada, a large, pale pink complex overlooking the ocean, with everything you could possibly want, from gyms and pools to a private beach with adjacent Jacuzzis. And yet oddly, because the Chesapeake Resort is not a hotel but a collection of self-catering apartments, there was nowhere to eat and no social centre — which rather sums up the nature of the key itself. You could buy coffee and snacks in reception but that was about it. So we ate instead at the recommended Lazy Days restaurant, where I had my first experience of conch fritters and key lime pie, the two staple dishes on any Floridan menu. Food in Florida, like its pools and yachts and televisions and hotel beds with their unmistakeably romantic message, is big and unsubtle. The portions are large, the flavours are large: Florida, they seem to imply, will fulfil you.

There are lots of things to do in Florida, all of them outdoor and most of them wet. Of course, you can just lie by a pool or on the beach but if you want action, there are countless opportunities to dive, fish, snorkel or sail. We went on a fishing trip, during which large and magnificent fish were caught and then returned to the ocean. Someone even hooked a small shark. It was a huge success, though for the first time in my life I was violently seasick. I watched television to recover.

"My wife was a serial fraudster," exclaimed a man on a chat show. "So was *mine*!" shrieked a member of the audience. I felt worse and had a beachside Jacuzzi to recover from the television.

En route to Key West the following day we visited the Dolphin Research Centre on Grassy Key, which raised in all of us some uncomfortable questions about a research centre that still teaches its animals to jump through hoops for the visitors. Still, it has to be said that the dolphins did appear to be enjoying themselves (even though the sea lions did not). You can swim with the dolphins there too, but the waiting list is long and it costs from $90 (around £60) for half an hour, plus the initial training session. Book on your way down for the return trip if you want to do it.

A visit to Key West ("Cayo Hueso" or Bone Island, a name derived from the custom of the warring Indian tribes who did not bury their dead, but left them in the open air) has to be the highlight of any trip to the area. Separated from the rest of the Keys by the amazing Seven-Mile bridge, which spans two oceans, the town itself is a small oasis balanced on the tip of the land, 1½ miles long and four miles wide. The locals claim it has "more character and history per square mile than most any other city in the world", and, while that's a gross exaggeration, it has more personality than anywhere else on the Keys. During the 19th century it became the richest town in Florida, due to the salt and cigar industries, and the wrecking trade. It went bankrupt in the early 20th century, attracting Cuban refugees, and American and European artists and writers and people who just wanted to hang out. It was once home to Ernest Hemingway, Tennessee Williams and John Audubon.

These sorts of people are still here, and you can stay in their small, ramshackle boarding houses, in the local "conch" style, if you want. Key West is also a notoriously gay town, with "clothing optional" at some all-male B&Bs. Sadly, we stayed at a hotel of great opulence but a staggering lack of imagination, with everything — bar any originality — on site, and everybody was fully dressed.

Though there are the usual wet activities available — we snorkelled one day at the Looe Key National Marina and the corals are quite magnificent — much the best thing to do in Key West is to explore the town on hired bicycles (from $3 to $9 a day). It's nice and easy to cycle, being flat, and as well as visiting Hemingway's house, you can disappear down interesting little back streets where there are still houses and gardens of modest but staggering beauty, and then cycle on to a lazy lunch at the South Beach café.

Every night during the tourist season there are sunset celebrations in Mallory Square, where you will find jugglers and tight-rope walkers and people selling homemade brownies: cycling to those after a day in the heat is a joy which is hard to describe.

If you want a laugh, go on a Casino Cruise. It will be one of the tackiest things available to you in Florida, but the delights of playing poker with friendly and seriously fat Texan men outweighs all that. I didn't get seasick, but I did lose $35, and with it my dignity, especially as two of my companions made $400 between them.

Key West has enormous charm and I'd go there again, but I would give the rest of the Keys a miss. Perhaps the real problem with the Keys is that they have little life outside of tourism, little spirit of their own. They clearly had a native beauty once, a beauty still visible in places away from the expensive hotels and yachts, with perfect sea, sands and palm trees: but now even the landscape looks as if it has had plastic surgery, had its history nipped and tucked and straightened out. It's been *brochurised*. It's a bit like having a holiday on a film set.

The "tropical landscaping" referred to in the brochure says it all.

MARY LOUDON

Florida fact file

☐ The author was a guest of the Florida Keys and Key West Division of Tourism (01564 794555).

☐ She flew on American Airlines with American Airline Holidays. Flights daily from Heathrow to Miami from £348 return, and daily to Key West via Miami from £423, if booked 21 days in advance. Reservations: 0345 789789.

☐ For further information on all Florida Keys and Key West holidays, ring 01564 794555.

A window on a rich man's world

Arriving via the two-hour ferry trip from Hyannis Port Cape Cod, my first impression of Nantucket Island — "the unknown city in the middle of the ocean" — is of newly applied white paint, rows of bicycle hire shops and parked cars with windows left open ("You'd have to be tapioca to steal a car off this island," one local says. "Where are you goin' to go?"), while a sticker on a Range Rover announces: "My wife says if I go fishing one more time, she's going to leave me. God, I'm gonna miss her."

Traipsing with our bags along the pier, we gaze at rich men's yachts, ice-cream shops and swarms of day trippers. Beyond, we discover cobblestoned Main Street with its Whaling Museum and Crabtree and Evelyn air, where upmarket shops overflow with yachting gear, locally made lightship baskets (more of which later) and the sort of clothes I'd describe as Cotswoldy. More down to earth is Congdons, a splendidly old-fashioned drug store complete with soda fountain, where you can buy anything from soda pop to specs.

And, everywhere, are gracious, beautifully preserved buildings. Nantucket's heyday was between 1740 and 1840 when it was said to be the most expensive piece of real estate in all of North America. Eight hundred houses were built during that period, courtesy of the whale, for at that time Nantucket had the largest whaling fleet in the world. "Then the whaling stopped and so did the money. Nantucket went to sleep for 100 years," says the man in the drugstore.

At the Anchor Inn, owned by Charles and Ann Balas, each of the 11 rooms is named after the whaling ships that sailed into Nantucket harbour during the early 1800s: James Arnold, Alice Knowles, Charles W. Morgan and so on. I can't say we're ecstatic about Morning Star, our dark little room at the back, although we warm to Mr Balas's hot fruit and bran breakfast muffins, made, he assures us, by himself.

Expensive? Rich? Fashionable? Tiny Nantucket is all of these. At De Marco's restaurant on India Street, I meet Marianne Giffen, a 13th generation Nantucketer. "I spent my early years trying to get out of this place," she confesses, "but after college I came back because I couldn't live without the ocean. It's a love-hate relationship: you hate the isolation, yet there's nowhere else like it in the world. The thing you have to understand about Nantucket," she adds, "is that it's very, *very* expensive to live here. I could never afford a boat, nor an oceanside house (Marianne is editor of the *Nantucket Inquirer and Mirror*) because we don't have that kind of money. But you simply can't *imagine* the amount of money the summer residents have."

The summer residents — along with poor bed and breakfasters like us — swell Nantucket's population from nearly 7,000 to around 40,000, and the numbers are rising. Until recently, the Nantucket season started in July and finished late October. Now, it kicks off with a daffodil festival in April and ends at Christmas when the last flush of visitors arrive to celebrate Nantucket Noel — arranged, you should not be surprised to learn, by the assiduous Nantucket Island Chamber of Commerce.

We board the tourist trail bus and listen to Ray, the driver, as he recalls the winter when the ice froze Hyannis and Nantucket too. "It was a salutary reminder that every stick, every ounce of food, every piece of clothing, comes across to us on the ferries. There is no way we could survive without them. Never ate so much pasta in my life," he says.

According to William Welch, an antique dealer on East Street, selling traditional New England antiques such as decoy ducks, Nantucket's cobblestones arrived as ballast: "Mostly from England — you bought 75 per cent of our whale oil, you know." Well no, actually I didn't.

"Look straight ahead," Ray says. "There's the Atlantic Ocean. Great fishing out there. Bass, blue fish and, in August, giant tuna." Contrarily I look to my left and what do I see? A privet hedge cut in the shape of a whale, right down to the flume on top of its head. "You can't go anywhere on this island that isn't visually beautiful," eulogises another resident. "We all have this common bond — our love of Nantucket."

In addition to lyrical residents, Nantucket has lyrical Indian names such as Nobadeer Beach, Madaket Beach, Siasconset Beach and Squam Head. It also boasts the biggest cranberry bog in America, plus more theatres and museums than one might wish to visit. And the old traditions are fiercely clung on to: the earnest Lightship Basket Society makes, with varying degrees of skill, the lidded baskets originally dreamt up and perfected by bored crew members aboard the South Shoal Lightship. "The lightships were there to warn ships off the rocks," Mr Balas tells me. "We still have two of them. They are painted red and have Nantucket written on their sides."

PICTURE GROUP

Lighthouses line the Nantucket coast

One evening we dine at the lace-curtained Quaker Inn; another at the more expensive and lugubriously named Jared Coffin House, built by poor Mr Coffin for his bride who rewarded him by decamping to the bright lights of Boston. Our favourite stopping-off place, though, is the stylish Expresso Café on Main Street where we can sit indoors or out, snack or scoff ... and drink loads of Green Mountain coffee.

The last day we're lured up the 93 steps to the top of the Old North Congregational by the following sad story: "When men put out to sea long ago, many a wife walked her widow's walk ..." As we climb, we can see these "widows' walks", complete with balcony rails, on the tops of most houses — perfect vantage points for wives waiting for their husbands' ships to come home. More than most places perhaps, Nantucket is canny enough to know that its history is its fortune.

PADDY BURT

Getting there

☐ American Airlines (0181-577 9966) offers return London-Boston fly-drive packages till March 28, from £279 per person plus taxes, including economy car hire for two people for one week. (Rising to from £469 between December 15-24).

☐ Regular ferry service from Hyannisport, no need to book. Don't take your car — plenty of parking at the dock.

☐ The Anchor Inn, Centre Street, Nantucket. B&B from $95-$145 (£60-£90) per room, peak season. Reservations: 001-508 228 0072.

☐ Nantucket Tourist Information Centre 001-508 228 1700.

Over the hills and far away

JUSTIN ZAMAN, the London medical student who won the Coca-Cola Global Refreshment Tour competition, sponsored by *The Times* and STA Travel, files his final report, from China

COLORIFIC

Chinese chess is a popular pastime among locals in the small village of Yangshuo

AS foreign visitors in an unfamiliar land, one is incessantly the target for local entrepreneurs. Around the world, business is booming. People sell everything, and they make sure you know about it. Amid all the junk, we found a gem, in the small town of Yangshuo, in the southwestern province of Guangxi.

At first we were instinctively wary of the woman who approached us at Lisa's Café. But her guided tour did seem to encompass all that we had come here for. And her entrepreneurial spirit — from her picturesque photos to the references from previous backpackers — did impress us.

Yangshuo is set in the most beautiful landscape in China. The backdrop to every house is a peak, more than a hill but not quite a mountain. Made from grey karst limestone and thickly covered by emerald green vegetation, they form every conceivable shape, from elephants to dragons, from a page boy to a mother with child.

Cycling rapidly to keep up with her frenetic pace, our guide soon left the main roads behind. In their place lay uneven, unpredictable paths, with not a tourist bus in sight. Surrounding us on all sides was farmland, growing corn, rice and wheat, spread out like a patchwork quilt. Where these stopped, the peaks rose, the border between field and peak blurred by the haze created by the shimmering heat. And behind the nearest peak rose another, and another behind that, stretching as far as the dazzling midday sunlight would allow us to see.

We stopped en route many times: to watch water buffalo bathing; to join in with the farmers harvesting their crops; and to exhaust yet another roll of film. And we were invited to our guide's village. Sheltered at the base of the peaks, our entry woke up the community. We greeted them in Mandarin, and they replied "hello". After that we communicated through our faces and hands. Our guide took us to her small house. Two rooms and a small cooking area, quite dark but immaculately kept; a pigsty in the backyard and corn drying on the roof.

After bidding farewell to our hosts, we had one last sight to see — the sunset. Following a furious half-hour climb, we reached the top of Moon Hill. Four different views of the stunning landscape, at the four points of the compass, welcomed us. One of these was the sun, a perfect crimson circle that dropped behind the jagged limestone peak horizon moments after we had caught our breath.

For us, China became the farmers and the villagers, the fields and the beautiful skyline. It was not the extravagant hotels and restaurants, the expensive souvenir shops and the plethora of historical sights the Tourist Office guides took you to. Our guide had known what we really wanted — she had represented an uncut gem in a host of finely drilled imitations, on a tour as authentically Chinese as any tourist could ever hope to experience.

WHEN WE arrived in America just over a week later, life was less different than we had expected. The booming capitalism was obvious, but no more so than in China. And our guide to the Coca-Cola museum in Atlanta knew what we wanted. He gave a succinct, humorous history when others might have bored us with detail.

We told him how we had bought Cokes in small tribal villages in Thailand and from a little boy in a dusty Indian desert, and he explained the logistics of distribution with unerring authority. And there was plenty of time to refresh ourselves with the bewildering range of Coca-Cola products that poured from futuristic soda-stream machines. And, like our guide in China, he invited us to his home, scribbling his address on the back of our museum ticket. All this with an authentic American style — loud and over-the-top.

From our travels around the globe, we learnt many things. One of these was a cliché, but it always rang true — it's a small world out there.

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BELGIUM: **George Brock** fondly unwraps the tastier side to one of Europe's least regarded countries

Golden age comes to chocolate land

This is a hymn to an unlikely love: a damp, dowdy and downtrodden country which is probably the most underregarded blob on the map of western Europe.

In the success of the Belgo restaurants in London you can see Belgium's awful image improving a little. But such successes are usually swamped by knocking jokes of the "Can you name five famous Belgians?" variety.

I lived there for four and a *half years, and I still can't* name five famous Belgians of whom anyone outside the country might have heard. But who cares? Belgium will never summon the glamour of France or Italy, let alone match their weather. But now is the moment to visit Belgium and sample its warm comforts, old-fashioned qualities and courtesy.

Brussels is enjoying a golden age as a capital city, combining unexpected buzz with an absence of traffic jams, queues and hassle, which make Europe's bigger places so exhausting to live in.

And swallow this, Jacques Chirac: the Belgians are more serious about their food than the French. This is more a matter of attitude than of Michelin rosettes. Belgians love and consume good food because the pleasures of life are a high priority and because it rarely occurs to them to eat bad food.

Take chocolate. Belgium invented the pavement chocolate stall. This is the country where a handful of city streets have three or four chocolate shops in fierce competition with each other; which makes and exports more chocolate than any other in the European Union; whose inhabitants eat an average of 7.4 kilos (about 16lb) of chocolate a year.

To the Belgian, chocolate is more than a luxury food. For a country which has no strong national identity or style, chocolate is a symbol that it does something classy supremely well. The *chocolatiers* of Brussels are the ambassadors of style to the outside world, just as the *haute couture* houses of Paris represent France. Indeed, Mary, *chocolatier* to the Belgian Royal family, operates a single shop done out in the heavy velvet curtains and high-backed gilt chairs of a latter-day dress salon.

And to wander into the Wittamer shop among the step-gabled houses of the Grand Sablon square at *Christmas is to taste the* reverence which Belgians reserve for the true temples of food. Custom-designed cakes, ice-creams and boxes of chocolates are wrapped with love and care by meek, white-coated assistants under the severe gaze of managers who pace the floor looking for imperfections in the ziggurats of coffee truffles.

The Christmas colour schemes — usually blue and gold — at the oldest of all *chocolatiers*, the Neuhaus shop in the Galeries de la Reine, help to make the most beautiful shop windows I have ever seen. The shop is a shrine, and the drawers and cupboards date back to the middle of the last century: here, in 1912, Jean Neuhaus invented the praline.

> ‘The Belgians are more serious about *food than* the French’

The French may have some of the most renowned restaurants in the world, but in French cities, the supermarket and *le fast food* is eroding home cooking. Belgium is profoundly traditional, slow to change and to unlearn the old ways. Children often don't *leave home until they marry*, and are still taught to cook. Little Belgians grow up to be picky, knowledgeable consumers with no time for the Thai-style stir-fry gimmicks *which litter the shelves of* British supermarkets.

How can I thicken the sauce in my stew, my wife asked the butcher. Put in a teaspoonful of drinking chocolate, he replied without missing a beat. (It did the trick.)

I would walk three minutes to the daily market and listen to a glowering granny asking for a melon "for tomorrow". She meant one that would be perfectly ripe the next day and on no other. Woe betide the stallholder who misjudged the melon: grandmère will not shop there again.

This discriminating taste has no chauvinism. Lots of food is imported; Marks & Spencer made some of its earliest continental inroads in Belgium, and my local supermarket stocked 19 kinds of shortbread made by Walkers of Aberdeen.

Shoppers in a hurry expect to be able to rush into a shop on the way home, announce that they have six people turning up for dinner and to be told what to buy. Expertise is respected. We spent a delicious evening at our next door neighbours' and, as the dinner was coming to an end, the chef from the local *traiteur* was briefly introduced to the table and given a round of applause. At such a party, you could expect to meet a *poissonier* or *fleuriste* ; the craftspeople of food, drink and decoration belong with the white collar professions.

Attention to quality of lifestyle goes with close attention to courtesy. In the imagination of much of the rest of the *world*, English behaviour typifies starchy, repressed formality. Belgians do not see it so. My next door neighbour, a successful and quite unstuffy architect, remarked one day *that he had been working on a* project with some young English engineers. They were fine to work with, he said, but a bit familiar. They started using first names far too fast.

On the other hand, I have never come across a country *with less respect for politicians* or an odder sense of humour. Voters more than once elected Jean-Pierre van Rossem to parliament despite his being continually jailed for fraud and his keeness to tell interviewers that he kept his mother's corpse at home in a freezer. And Brussels has the world's only underpants museum.

A few subjects are off limits to ridicule. It is a criminal offence to be grossly disrespectful to the royal family, and the man who launched a magazine with a feature on the sex life of Tintin went out of business.

Belgians are not particularly fond of the outdoors, and the global fashion for healthy exercise seems to have passed the country by. I quickly realised that the joggers I met round the ponds near my house were all foreigners.

I once ended a run at the local bakery and stood, sweating and breathing heavily, in the queue for croissants. By the time I was served, the motherly women behind the counter were incapacitated by giggles. If I had appeared in a pink tutu and wellingtons I doubt that I would have caused more incredulity.

Belgians are not notably svelte. Glance into any bar at any hour of the day or evening and, through the thick cigarette smoke, you will see placid, pear-shaped men moored behind glasses of Stella Artois.

Belgians are not particular*ly unhealthy compared with* other Europeans, so some of them must be eating carefully and taking exercise, but they must do it out of sight. The government occasionally tries to issue advice on diet but stirs up only polite indifference.

RAY MAIN

At Christmas, the Wittamer shop in Brussels exudes the reverence of a true temple of food

Government looms small in *Belgian life. Belgians have* become accustomed over the centuries to a variety of rulers who had limited influence on ordinary human life: Burgundian dukes, Spanish kings and Belgian politicians only for the last century and a half. As you *gaze at the half-hidden* treasures of Flemish paintings in dark corners of cathedrals or the evocative Antwerp museum housed in one of Europe's oldest printshops, you can feel that, while present-day Belgium is self-effacing, its past *was noisy and flamboyant.*

The redbrick merchants' houses of Bruges were once as glittering and opulent to *people from the flatlands of* East Flanders as the skyscrapers of Manhattan are to us now. Trampled twice by war in the 20th century, Belgians preserve their heritage in their cuisine. The national menu was moulded by the Burgun*dian empire: standard fare is* oddly similar around Dijon.

The Burgundian inheritance is pleasure in preparing and serving food. Our favourite restaurant in Brussels was called the Brasserie Georges. It is huge, frantically busy and won a *place in my heart the* night we took a fastidious Belgian friend there to dinner and he ordered *crème brulée. He tried it and instantly* summoned the waitress: it was (I forget which) either too hot or too cold. The waitress promptly told him why he was wrong about the ideal temperature, explained the problems of cooking the dish and, *after several minutes*, returned with a second pudding cooked to his specifications in order to prove her point. This is a random quality test which I fear many British restaurants wouldn't pass.

● *The author is European Editor of* The Times.

CHOC BOX

☐ In 1993, the Belgians produced 65,424 *tonnes* of chocolates.

☐ Britain is the biggest per capita consumer of chocolate after Switzerland and Belgium, spending £4 billion per annum.

☐ The following companies offer a mail-order service:

Wittamer, 6 Place du Grand Sablon, 1000 Bruxelles, (00 322 512-3742, fax 00 322 512-5209). A 750g pack of chocolates costs BFr2,000 (£44), including postage, and can be ordered with Amex, Diners Club, Eurocard or Visa, by either letter or fax.

Mary, 73 Rue Royale, 1000 Bruxelles (00 322 217-4500) will deliver 1½lb of wrapped chocolates for BFr1,700 (£38), including postage. (Eurocheques only).

Neuhaus, 25-27 Gallerie de la Reine, 1000 Bruxelles (00 322 502-5914) will deliver 750g of chocolate, or 600g in an illustrated metallic box, for BFr1,485 (£33). Orders can be made by fax on 00 322 512 6359, followed up by a Eurocheque.

☐ In Britain, the Belgian Trading Company imports a new variety of Belgian chocolate called 'Café-Tasse', which is wrapped in craft paper. Write to the BTC at 24 Albert Square, London SW8 1DA (0171-820 3555; no visitors).

☐ Eurostar (0345 881881) to Brussels costs from £69.

Wittamer *chocolatier*

TRAVEL TIPS

☐ Cox and Kings (0171-873 5000) is offering a round trip on the Andalus Express from Seville via Jerez. Departing *April 6 and taking in Cordoba, Granada,* Ronda and Marbella, the seven-day tour costs from £1,299 per person based on five-nights twin-share cabin accommodation aboard the Andalus, plus one night twin-share accommodation at the five-star Hotel Tryp Colon, includes transfers and return flights from Heathrow.

☐ Magic Of The Orient (01293 537700) is organising seven-day "Return to Changi" tours to Singapore for ex-service personnel, departing February 14. Prices start at £698 based on two sharing, and include return scheduled flights from Heathrow, transfers and room-only hotel accommodation.

☐ The Imaginative Traveller (0181-742 8612) has a 12-day safari in Botswana for £885 per person. The trip starts in Maun, explores the Okavango Delta by canoe, and then goes on to the Moremi game reserve, Chobe and Zimbabwe. The price includes ten nights' camping with all *meals, transport, one night's hotel* accommodation at a three-star hotel at Victoria Falls, excursions and game park fees. Departs January 21.

Granada: on the Andalus Express route

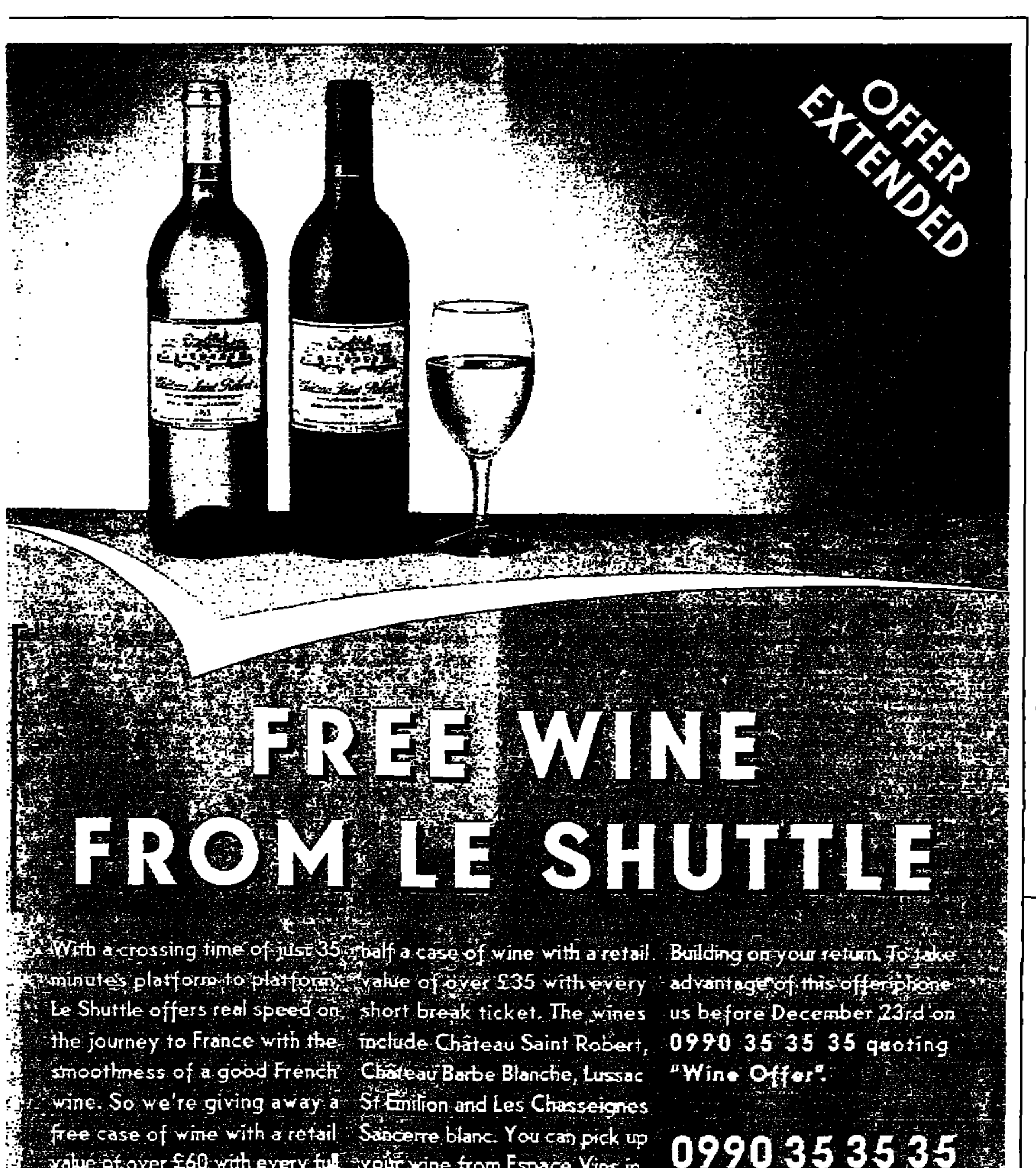
☐ Brompton Travel (0181-549 3334) is offering a ten-day opera tour of Naples. Departing May 30 from Gatwick with for three nights (breakfast only) at a four-star hotel, the trip includes a performance of Verdi's *Traviata* at the San Carlo Opera House and seven nights half board at the Hotel Luna Convento, a converted monastery. Price £1,350 per person including return flights.

☐ Steppes East (01285 810267) has a 15-day natural history tour of Morocco. Departing January 27 to Marrakech, the guided tour takes in Essaouira, Agadir, Zagora on the edge of the Sahara and the Tiz-n-Tichka pass in the Atlas Mountains. *Costing* from £1,570 per person, the trip includes return flights from Heathrow, transfers, transport and meals.

☐ Self-catering breaks on the Brittany/Normandy border are on offer from EuroVillages (01606 734400). Staying in a watermill and barn conversion, the price *of £295 for a seven-night stay* (sleeping four to seven) includes a return Dover/Calais crossing. Offer runs from March 31-May 25, only if booked before the end of January.

☐ Getaway Vacations (0181-313 0550) is offering a 14-day tour of Mississippi, starting and ending in Memphis, Tennessee. The tour takes in Tunica on Highway 61, Clarksdale and the Delta Blues Museum, Greenville and Natchez. It includes three nights on the Gulf Coast's Mississippi Beach at a three-star Holiday Inn. Prices start from £747 per person (based on two sharing) include return flights from Heathrow, accommodation and car hire. The offer runs from January 1 to March 28.

PERRY CLEVELAND-PECK



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SKIING ON A BUDGET: An 'undiscovered' resort in Bulgaria, and the lure of a French town that's short of snow

Tiny Bansko heads for the big time

One of Bulgaria's most beautiful and unspoilt mountain towns, Bansko, in the south west, has become the latest addition to the Euro ski map. For the first time, it is possible to see this previously fairly inaccessible corner of the country at package prices.

The time to visit is now, before its popularity attracts the developers who could turn it into another sprawling Pamporovo or Borovets. The ski season stretches into April, when edelweiss and other wild flowers begin to appear on the lower slopes.

Because the mountains are as unspoilt as the town, the skiing facilities are limited. But there are no crowds either, and a lot to explore in the area when you are not skiing.

You won't hear anyone talking about Bansko, and rarely read about it. Hardly anyone has been there yet. I was in a group of only four for the two-and-a-half-hour minibus ride from Sofia airport last season.

The sense of adventure turned eerie as the forest roads grew more and more deserted. This area, in a volatile position between Macedonia and Greece, has a feisty nationalist reputation.

When we arrived at 9pm, Bansko felt less like a ski resort than a medieval film set. We clattered down dimly lit cobbled lanes, past dour but majestic Ottoman houses of the old town, towards our hotel, the Sema, which was no bigger than a large house: warm and woody, with a sauna and bar/restaurant.

The Sema is part of a small proliferation of hotels and restaurants that expect a tourist boom that hasn't happened yet. Bansko still feels like a pretty backwater, and attracts a lot of slightly patronising Sofia sophisticates who weekend here in their furs to enjoy "the simple folk" with their horse-drawn carts and rustic cooking.

Bansko's skiing potential rests on the shoulders of Bulgaria's second highest peak, Mount Vihren, a picturesque half-hour free bus ride from the town.The Vihren ski centre feels more 1950s Vermont than Val d'Isère. *White Christmas* was actually playing in one of the wooden restaurants on the first morning as I squandered the equivalent of 40p on a double brandy in hot tea to focus my mind on the day ahead.

Vihren sits on the nothern edge of the Pirin mountains, giving chairlift skiers a spectacular view over Bansko and the Rila mountains further north.

The two longest runs come down left and right of the lift. The more difficult and mogulled right-arm run is the most popular, which means you often find yourself on the other one blissfully alone for 2½km of fresh morning snow.

A traverse from the top of the chairlift leads to the other runs, which are served by a button lift beside a little restaurant that's basic but dramatically placed above a meandering valley that sometimes turns into a vast, foaming sea of cloud.

This is where most off-piste experiences start. Emil, our guide, led me deftly down through six kilometres of glistening fir trees in a landscape that the high Alps can't compete with.

Another way to extend the resort's limited formal runs is to get a ski-skooter to tow you up an adjoining mountain; a half-day excursion costs £10. You can even parascend for about £30.

Bansko's medieval night-time peace disguises a warren of boisterous Balkan dives where you can eat, drink, dance, or watch a kitschy cabaret at absurdly low prices.

Our most expensive meal, in the elegant Sharkova Hashta restaurant set in one of the finest old-town houses, cost £4 each. The cheapest, at the Pizzeria Alex, cost about 80p, with beer, for two.

Most of the restaurants serve traditional mountain stews, slabs of meat, salads and freshwater fish. The wine is excellent, particularly one called Evcinogracko, a Black Sea wine that used to be bought up by a government élite who thought it was too good to waste on the people.

The time to explore is when the skiing queues build up at weekends. On Sundays, a caravan of traders from all points east descends on the town, creating a huge, tatty market full of all the different languages, religions and costumes that make up this rich and varied corner of the Balkans.

Local Pomaks (Slavs who converted to Islam under the Turks) sell hand-embroidered shawls, while an Orthodox choir chants its way through a service in the church nearby.

Around the corner is the icon museum, devoted to the famous 19th-century Bansko school. Deeper in the old town are two well-preserved museum houses.

The best way to get out of town and see the country is to hire a minibus and driver. A long day and 200 miles cost us £40 — shared between four.

Bulgaria's best-known monastery, the Rila, is north of Bansko. But we decided to go south towards Greece, and the Rohzen monastery: a high-on-a-hill nest of ancient wood-framed buildings hugging a dark church drenched in eccentric iconography. Over the hill, the historic town of of Melnik, is the home of the country's finest red wine. Further south, on the border, is Petrich, historically associated with nationalist terrorism which once earned it the title "murder capital of Bulgaria". Now it is just famous for Vanga: a blind old woman and oracle, who even the Prime Minister once asked for prophetic advice.

She lives outside town in the shade of an extinct volcano, where thermal steam rises mysteriously from the soil. A clutch of hollow-eyed hopefuls had been waiting all day for an audience.

We didn't get one. But her doorman assured us: "Don't worry about Bulgaria. Vanga has said there will be peace." Our driver, however, said that a Sofia businessman recently offered him arms and money to establish a separatist cell in the town.

Back in Bansko, our guide was unimpressed. "The only fight going on here," he said, "is between the Ministry of Tourism, which wants to build another ski lift, and the Ministry of Conservation, which won't cut down the trees to let them do it."

While this sort of impasse continues, Bansko's slow development will protect it as one of the most beautiful and interesting small resorts in Europe.

SIMON MILES

Bansko, with its uncrowded runs, has so far escaped the attention of the Bulgarian developers and is more like a film set than a ski resort

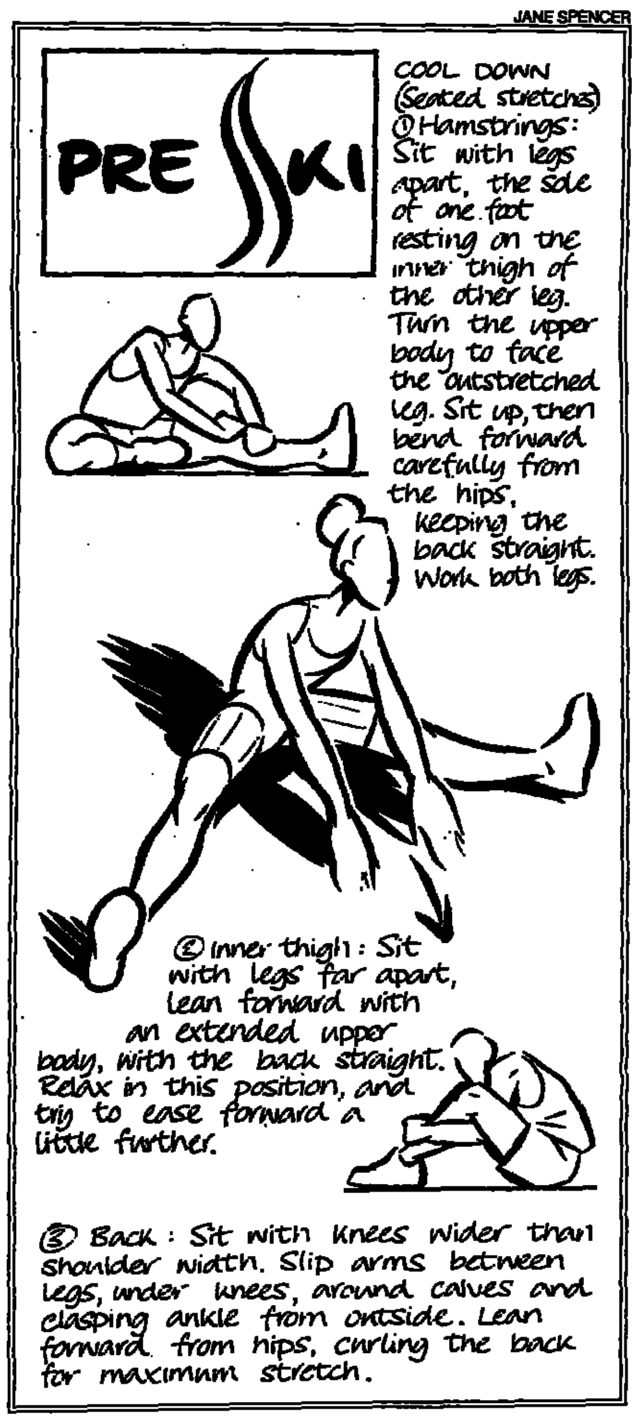
Getting there

☐ **Balkan Holidays UK (0171-499 8615) will arrange tailor-made packages to Bansko from around £300 for seven nights, including B&B and flights.**

☐ **Balkan Airlines (0171-631 1840) flies from London Heathrow direct to Sofia daily (except Tues and Thurs) from £232 return. From Sofia, a minibus takes about 2½ hours to reach Bansco.**

☐ **Balkan tourist office in Bansko (English spoken): 00 359 7443 5032, fax 5030.**

JANE SPENCER



COOL DOWN
(Seated stretches)

① Hamstrings: Sit with legs apart, the sole of one foot resting on the inner thigh of the other leg. Turn the upper body to face the outstretched leg. Sit up, then bend forward carefully from the hips, keeping the back straight. Work both legs.

② Inner thigh: Sit with legs far apart, lean forward with an extended upper body, with the back straight. Relax in this position, and try to ease forward a little further.

③ Back: Sit with knees wider than shoulder width. Slip arms between legs, under knees, around calves and clasping ankle from outside. Lean forward from hips, curling the back for maximum stretch.

● From *Skilegs*, by Tessa Coker, available from the Ski Club of Great Britain, 118 Eaton Square, London SW1W 9AF, £2.50 including p&p. *The Times* cannot be held responsible for any injuries resulting from or sustained while carrying out the exercises and movements described.

Boom for the ski town with no pistes

In pre-Olympian times, Brides-les-Bains was not a skier's town. It has no pistes, it is too low for regular snow and it had no lifts. Then came the "money-to-burn" Albertville Winter Olympics and, with it, the 25-minute gondola link into Méribel in the heart of the Trois Vallées ski area.

Post Albertville, the sleepy spa with its one-room casino and thermal treatment rooms suggesting unspeakable invasions of the human body, is a potential winner for those who want to ski the super beltways of the Tarentaise from an authentically French base camp.

For the local shopkeepers, this money-spinner requires some minor adjustments to tourist practice. In winter, a ski rental shop dominates the main street but, come the first swallow, the racks of scratched Salomons are replaced by shelves of Gucci-lookalike handbags for area's lake-and-mountain summer coach trade.

Ask the local ski technician who chooses to go to Brides-les-Bains in winter and he replies: "Those looking for a cheap holiday." This is borne out by streets that come alive after dark to sounds of merriment from Britons travelling with tour operators whose motto is "Good value at rock bottom prices".

The leader of the operators' pack is Top Deck, a thrusting company, based in west London, that started on the overland coach trail to Kathmandu and later pioneered snowboarding holidays in Andorra. With characteristic opportunism, it noticed that the six-day Espace Olympique Savoie lift pass, which allows people staying in one Tarentaise resort to ski for a day in two of the others, was useless to those who had no transport. So why not, the company thought, take advantage of this concession by providing a coach to drive clients from Brides to Courchevel, Méribel, Val Thorens, La Plagne and Val d'Isère/Tignes on a daily basis? Only on the sixth day are clients expected to travel on the Brides-Méribel gondola link.

The man behind the "High Five Ski Safari" programme is Ed Wood, a New Zealander who skis a lot better than many of his French counterparts. He is also the workhorse, doubling as guide and coach driver. With the help of his girlfriend, Andrea, he provides a climate of ceaseless bonhomie.

The logistics of the holiday are formidable, with deadline departures Brides between eight and nine each morning, and draconian warnings to clients that stragglers will be left behind.

On arrival in the day's resort, Mr Wood takes off his busman's overalls and dons his Top Deck jacket to lead anyone who wants to join him round the slopes. By the time the lifts close, Andrea has a vat of glühwein bubbling on the coach cooker to fuel the journey back to Brides.

For added thrills, the day in La Plagne ends with an optional descent of the Olympic bobsleigh track in a four-man foam cocoon that hurtles through the chicanes with a high thrill factor and encouraging stability (2,000 descents in 1994 without accident).

Those prepared to face a greater sensation (at three times the cost) can ride in the middle section of a bob-taxi, an unpadded competition model with a professional driver and brakeman — and serious risk of whiplash for those who dare to peer over the rim.

MINTY CLINCH

● *The author was a guest of Top Deck Ski (0171-370 4555, fax 0171-373 6301). Its "High Five Ski Safari" holiday costs from £379 a week, including return flights (Gatwick-Geneva), seven nights half-board, ski guiding and transport. The Espace Olympique Savoie lift pass costs Fr1,035 (about £145) for six days.*

● *Other operators include: Snowcoach Club Cantabrica (01727 866177, fax 01727 843766): ten-day coach holidays (Friday departures) in Brides-les-Bains from £268. Crystal Holidays (0181-399 5144); seven-night self-catering holidays in Brides-les-Bains from £209 (four sharing) or £239 (two sharing); with half-board at the two-star Hotel Savoy, from £389.*

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from Page 21

HEROLA

(b) A small, rare antelope, *Damaliscus hunteri*, native to Kenya and Somalia, and more frequently called Hunter's hartebeest. The Galla name for the pretty little sprinter. "Then follows the curious Hunter's hartebeest or herola, having horns which somehow suggest a connecting link with the fleet and supremely graceful impala."

KAPPA

(c) The tenth letter of the Greek alphabet, equivalent to the Roman K. "After the invention of the Kappa, the simple Gamma seems to have fallen into disuse in some dialects. The harshest and most emphatical palatial consonant is the Kappa."

LIVEYERE

(a) A permanent resident. Newfoundland slang, from the phrase *live here*. Folk etymology claims grandly that it comes from Old French *livree*, *cf. livery*, referring to a manorial worker in English villages having certain hereditary rights to a cottage and a small piece of land, thus being regarded as a permanent resident. "The permanent inhabitants of the Labrador coast, the liveyers, are about three thousand in number."

JHULA

(c) A simple suspension bridge used in the Himalayas, from the Hindi *jhūlā* a swing, swing-rope. A. S. H. Mountain, *Memoirs and Letters*, 1830: "Our chief object in descending to the Sutlej was to swing on a Joolah bridge."

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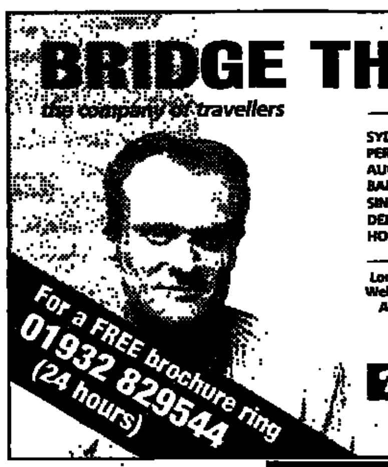

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O come, all ye faithful

ANGLICAN

SCOTLAND

St Andrew's Cathedral, Aberdeen (01224 640290). Dec 24: 4.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols; the cathedral choir.

Oban Cathedral (01631 562323). **Dec 24:** 10.15am, carol service.

St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh (0131-225 4363): Dec 17: 6pm, nine lessons and carols; **Dec 18:** George Watson's College Carol Service.

St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow (0141-339 4956): Dec 17: 4.30pm, candlelit nine lessons and carols.

St Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness (01463 233535): Dec 17: 6.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols (cathedral choir and local schools orchestra); **Dec 22:** 2pm, Bishop Eden's Primary School carol service.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Belfast Cathedral, (01232 328332): Dec 17: 3.30pm, service of nine lessons and carols; **Dec 24:** 8pm, lesson of nine lessons and carols.

St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh (01861 523142): Dec 24: 3.15pm, nine lessons and carols.

St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen (01365 322917): Dec 17: 7pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

St Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry (01504 262746): Dec 18: 1pm, civic carol service organised by the Institute of Directors; **Dec 24:** 6pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Lisburn Cathedral (01846 662865): Dec 24: 5pm, carol service.

WALES

Bangor Cathedral, (01248 370693): Dec 17: 6pm, Plygain y Gadeirlan (Welsh carol service); **Dec 19:** 7.30pm, nine lessons and carols; **Dec 24:** 11am, blessing of crib.

Llandaff Cathedral (01222 564554): Dec 24: 3.30pm, service of nine lessons and carols; 11.45pm, crib blessing with the cathedral choral society.

Newport Cathedral (St Woolos), Gwent (01633 263338): Dec 24: 3pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

St Asaph, Clwyd (01745 582245): today: 7.30pm, carol concert; **Dec 19:** 6.30pm, Ysgol Esgob Morgan carol service.

St David's, Dyfed (01437 720202): Dec 22: 7pm, nine lessons and carols.

ENGLAND

Birmingham Cathedral (0121-236 4333): Dec 21: 12.30pm, carols for all; **Dec 22:** 12.30pm, Christmas music with cathedral choir (admission £2.50/concessions £1.50); **Dec 23:** 10.30am and 11.15am Birthday in Bethlehem (puppets for children); 4pm, children's carol service; **Dec 24:** 5.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols (cathedral choir).

Bristol Cathedral (0117-926 4879): today: 7.30pm, carols and *Christmas* music, the City of Bristol Boys' Choir; **Dec 19** and **Dec 20:** 7.30pm, carols and Christmas music sung by *Bristol* Cathedral Special Choir; **Dec 24:** 3.30pm, nine lessons and carols.

Canterbury Cathedral (01227 762862): Dec 24: 3pm, nine lessons and carols.

Carlisle Cathedral (01228 48151): Dec 17: 3.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols (first service); **Dec 18:** 7.30pm, Trinity School carol service; **Dec 24:** 3pm, crib service; 6.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols (second service).

Chelmsford Cathedral (01245 263660): Dec 17: 3pm, service for the Royal Association for the Deaf; **Dec 18:** 2pm, Cathedral School carol service; **Dec 19:** 7.30pm, Rainsford School carol service; **Dec 20:** 2pm, County High School carol service; **Dec 24:** 4pm, crib service; 6pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Chester Cathedral (01244 324756): Dec 23: 5.15pm, blessing of the crib with family carols; **Dec 24:** 3.30pm, carol service with cathedral choir.

Chichester Cathedral (01243 782595): Dec 17: 3.30pm, a Sussex Christmas; **22nd:** 6pm, cathedral carol service; **Dec 23:** 6pm, cathedral carol service; **Dec 24:** 4.15pm, children's service with the blessing of the crib.

Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford (01865 276155): Dec 23: 7.30pm, service of nine lessons and carols; **Dec 24:** 3pm, service of nine lessons and carols.

RICHARD ALLEN

Coventry Cathedral (01203 227597): Today: 3pm, family carol service; 7.30pm, carols for all (Concert); **Dec 19:** 2pm, Age Concern carol service; **Dec 24:** 7pm, The Form of a Servant: a liturgy for Christmas Eve.

Durham Cathedral (0191-386 4266): today: 2.30pm, Mencap carol service; **Dec 17:** 4pm, *lighting of the Christmas tree* and blessing of crib; **Dec 18:** 7.30pm, HM Prison Staff carol service; **Dec 22:** 7pm, festival *of nine lessons and carols*; **Dec 24:** 3pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

Ely Cathedral (01353 667735): Dec 22: 5.30pm, Britten's A Ceremony of Carols; **Dec 24:** 7pm, procession with carols and blessing of crib.

Hereford Cathedral (01432 359880): today: 11am, carols for shoppers; **Dec 23:** 7pm, *nine lessons* and carols; **Dec 24:** 3pm, children's service.

Leicester Cathedral (0116-262 5294): today: 7pm, Handel's *Messiah* by Japanese choir; **Dec 17th:** 4pm, Freemasons' annual carol service; **Dec 18:** 7.30pm, Loros carol concert; **Dec 19:** 7.30pm, Old Leicestrians carol service; **Dec 20:** 7.30pm, Leicester Arts carol concert; **Dec 23:** 5.15pm, Christingle children's service; **Dec 24:** 4pm, festival of nine lessons and candlelight carol service.

Lichfield Cathedral (01543 250300): today: 3pm, Staffordshire Federation of Women's Institutes' carol service; 7.30pm, come and sing Handel's *Messiah* with the cathedral choir (Admission £5); **Dec 18:** 8pm, The King's School, Macclesfield carol service; **Dec 19:** 7.30pm, King Edward VI School, Lichfield carol service; **Dec 21:** 7.30pm, Cathedral Special Choir and Cannock Salvation Army Band carols; **Dec 24:** 5.30pm, family crib service, carols by candlelight with the choristers; **Dec 26:** 3.30pm, cathedral choir service.

Lincoln Cathedral (01522 544544): Dec 17: 7.30pm, Radio Lincolnshire/LSG carol service; **Dec 19:** 7.30pm, Co-op evening of Carols; **Dec 20:** 2pm, Lincoln Christ's Hospital School carol service; 2.15pm, Cathedral School carol service; **Dec 21:** 7.30pm, Lincolnshire Health Authority carol service; **Dec 22:** 6pm, Rotary carol service; **Dec 23:** 6pm, organ recital by Jeffrey Makinson; **Dec 24:** 4pm, carol service with the mayor's Christmas message and the bishop's blessing.

Liverpool Cathedral (0151-709 6271): 17th: 3pm, carol service with blessing of the crib and lighting of the tree; **Dec 23:** 3pm, annual Christmas recital; **Dec 24:** 3pm, the holly bough carol service.

Manchester Cathedral (0161-833 2220): today: 7.30pm, Voluntary Choir carol concert; **Dec 18:** 7.30pm, Selacare Trust carol service; **Dec 21:** 7.30pm, Greater Manchester Police carol service; **Dec 23:** 7.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols; **Dec 24:** noon, family carol service.

Newcastle Cathedral (0191-232 1939): Dec 24: 6pm, carol service; 11.30pm, blessing of the crib.

Peterborough Cathedral (01733 62780): today: 3pm, Christingle, 7.30pm, Handel's *Messiah* (tickets); **Dec 19:** 7.30pm, CNT Christmas Concert, in aid of the Hereward FM Appeal; **Dec 24:** 4pm, nine lessons and carols; 8pm, carols with the Salvation Army.

Portsmouth Cathedral (01705 823300): Dec 23: 6.30pm, carol service; **Dec 24:** 4pm, children's crib service.

Ripon Cathedral (01765 602072): Dec 17: 4pm, carol service; **Dec 19:** 7.30pm, Grammar School carol service; **Dec 23** 10.30am, blessing of crib, 5.30pm, carol service; **Dec 24:** 4pm, carol service. **Dec 26:** 10.30am, Fountains Abbey Pilgrimage.

Rochester Cathedral (01634 844023): Dec 21 and **22:** 7.30pm, carol service; **Dec 22:** noon, lunchtime carol service; **Dec 24:** 3.15pm, blessing of crib.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Suffolk (01284 754852): today: 7pm, carols by candlelight in aid of the Children's Society; **Dec 24:** 4.15pm, children's crib service, 7pm, service of nine lessons and carols.

Salisbury Cathedral (01722 330914): today: 5.30pm, a Christmas mystery, Christmas nativity and blessing of the crib; **Dec 18:** 7.30pm, South Wilts Grammar School carol service; **Dec 19:** 11am, Cathedral School carol service, 7.30pm, St Edmund's School carol service; **Dec 20:** 7.30pm, a celebration of Christmas concert; **Dec 23:** 7pm, cathedral carol service.

Sheffield Cathedral (0114-275 3434): Today: 1.30pm, City Centre Churches Together Carol Service; 7.30pm, girls' choir concert; **Dec 18:** 6.30pm, Coles's carol service; **Dec 19:** 12.30pm, South Yorkshire Police carols; **Dec 20:** 12.30pm, Employment Department carols; **Dec 21:** 7.30pm, Sheffield Oratorio Chorus concert; **Dec 22:** 1pm, carols galore; **Dec 23:** 6-8.30pm, Chapter House carols.

Southwark Cathedral, London SE1 (0171-407 3708): Dec 24: 3pm, carol service.

Truro Cathedral (01872 76782): Dec 24: 7pm, festival of nine lessons and carols; **Dec 31:** 3pm, children's carol service (with pets).

Wakefield Cathedral (01924 373923): today: 7.15pm, Skelmanthorpe Male Voice Choir Christmas concert (admission); **Dec 20:** 7.30pm, West Yorkshire Police Christmas concert (invitation only); **Dec 23:** 5pm, On the Way to Bethlehem — blessing of crib with cathedral girls' choir; **Dec 24:** 4pm, Christmas carol service, traditional nine lessons and carols.

Wells Cathedral (01749 674483): today: 7pm, Oratorio Society Chorus carol concert; **Dec 22:** 7.30pm, recital of Christmas music by candlelight (Wells Cathedral Choir); **Dec 24:** 5pm, blessing of the crib with carols; **Dec 26:** 3pm, Wells Cathedral Choir carol service in the nave.

Westminster Abbey (0171-976 0983): Dec 23: Noon, children's crib service; **Dec 24:** 4pm, service of lessons and carols.

Winchester Cathedral (01962 853137): today: 7.30pm, Christmas Concert, Waynflete Singers and Winchester Cathedral Choir (tickets); **Dec 21** and **Dec 22:** 6.30pm, carol service; **Dec 23:** children's service.

York Minster (01904 647577): Dec 24: 4pm, service of nine lessons and carols.

St George's Cathedral, Southwark (0171-928 5256): Dec 17: 4pm, parish carol service; **Dec 24:** 3.30pm, children's crib service.

***St Paul's Cathedral, London* (0171-248 2705): *today*:** 6.30pm, organ recital by John Scott, *La Nativité du Seigneur* (Messiaen); **Dec 19:** 7.30pm, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Christmas concert (tickets available from Barbican centre box office, 0171-638 8891); **Dec 22:** 1.15pm, lunchtime recital, *Ceremony of Carols* (Britten); **Dec 24:** 4pm, Christmas carol service and blessing of the crib; **Dec 26** and **Dec 27:** 5pm, Christmas music at the crib, sung by the Wren Consort of Voices.

LONDON CHURCHES

All Saints, Margaret St W1 (0171-636 1788): Dec 19: 12.30-1pm, lunchtime carol service followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

All Souls, Langham Place, W1 (0171-580 3522): Dec 17: 6.30pm, Christmas carol service.

The Assumption, Warwick St SW19 (0171-217 4547): Dec 24: 11.30pm, carol service.

Chelsea Old Church, SW3 (0171-352 5627): Dec 17: 6pm, service of nine lessons and carols sung by church quartet with handbells.

Crown Court Church of Scotland, Covent Garden WC2 (0171-836 5643): Dec 17: 6.30pm, nine lessons and carols.

Holy Trinity Brompton, Brompton Road, SW7 (0171-581 8255): Dec 17: 11am, Christingle family service; 5pm and 7.30pm, carols by candlelight.

Wesley's Chapel, City Road, EC2 (0171-253 2262): Dec 21: 12.45pm. Westminster Cathedral Choir, celebrity guests — proceeds in aid of Help the Hospices.

Westminster Central Hall (Methodist), SW1 (0171-222 8010): Dec 17: 6.30pm, candlelight carol service.

St Anne and St Agnes (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2 (0171-373 5566): Dec 23: 7pm, family carols service by candlelight.

St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield EC1 (01705 727300): Dec 17: 6.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols.

St Bride's, Fleet Street EC4, (0171-353 1301): Dec 17: 6.30pm, a ceremony of carols; *Dec 20: noon, Fleet St carols;* **Dec 24:** 6.30pm, a festival of nine lessons and carols.

St Clement Danes, Strand WC2 (0171-242 8282): Dec 17: 11am, service of nine lessons and carols.

St Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street, SW1 (0171-584 2321): Dec 17: 11am, celebration for Christmas; 11.30pm, candlelight service.

St Etheldreda's, Ely Place EC1 (0171-405 1061): Dec 21: 6.30pm, carol service sung by Choir of St Etheldreda's.

St George's, Hanover Square W1 (0171-629 0874): Dec 17: 6pm, carol service.

St James's, Garlickhythe, EC4 (0171-248 7546): Dec 17: 7pm, Advent carol service.

St James's, Sussex Gardens, W2 (0171-262 9976): Dec 17: 6pm, candlelit service of lessons and carols (mulled wine and mince pies afterwards).

St John's, Stratford E15 (0181-503 1913): Dec 17: 6.30pm, family carol service, *Fantasia in G* (Bach); **Dec 19:** 1.10pm, lunchtime carol service.

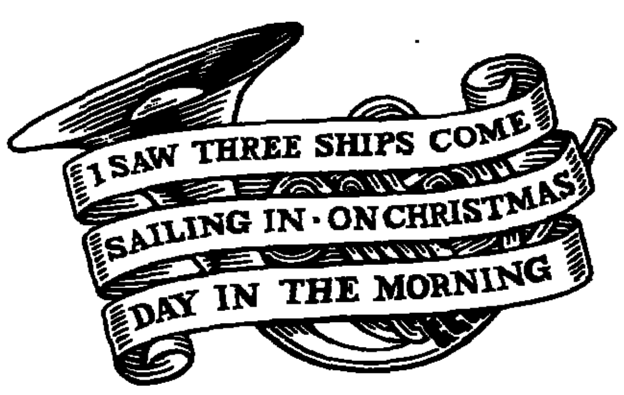
St Luke's, Chelsea, SW3 (0171-351 7365): Dec 17: 6.30pm, carol service; **Dec 24:** 4pm, crib service.

St Mark's, Regent's Park Rd, NW1 (0171-586 1694): Dec 22: 6.30pm, festival of lessons and carols.

St Margaret's, Westminster SW1 (0171-976 0983): Dec 17: 6.00pm, service of lessons and carols.

St Martin-in-the-Fields, WC2 (0171-930 0089): Dec 17: 2.45pm, Chinese carol service; **20:** 6.30pm, nine lessons and carols; **Dec 24:** 6.30pm, family carol service; **Dec 25:** 6.30pm, carols and readings.

St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington W8 (0171-937 5136): Dec 17: 6.30pm, nine lessons and carols; **Dec 22:** 1pm, community carol service; **Dec 24:** 3pm, children's crib service.



St Mary's, Bourne Street, SW1 (0171-230 3258): Dec 17: 6pm, advent carols and benediction.

St Mary-the-Virgin, Primrose Hill, NW3 (0171-722 3238): Dec 17: 6pm, candlelit carol service; **Dec 24:** 6pm, family carol service.

St Marylebone, Marylebone Road, W1 (0171-935 7315): Dec 17: 6.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols by candlelight.

St Paul's, Wilton Place, SW1 (0171-235 3460): Dec 19: 6.30pm, carol service by candlelight followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

St Peter's, Eaton Square, SW1 (0171-235 4482): Dec 17: 6.30pm, traditional readings, carols and Christmas music; **Dec 24:** 5pm, children's crib service and carols.

CHAPELS ROYAL

Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula, HM Tower of London (0171-709 0765): Dec 17: 11am, nine lessons and carols.

Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace (0171-930 3007): Dec 17: 11.15am, carol service.

Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace (0181-977 2762): Dec 17: 3.30pm, festival of nine lessons and carols (admission by chapel pass until 3pm).

Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, W1 (0171-499 1684): Dec 24: 11pm, carol service.

Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, WC2 (0171-836 7221): Dec 24: 11am, chapel carol service.

Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, SW1 (0171-414 3229): Dec 17: 11am and 6pm, parish carol service; **Dec 24:** 11.15pm, carols at the manger.

CATHOLIC

ENGLAND

Westminster Cathedral (0171-798 9057): Dec 17: 3.30pm, cathedral parish carol service.

Plymouth Cathedral (01752 662537): Jan 3: 7.30pm, cathedral Christmas carol service.

St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham (0121-236 2251): Dec 22: 7.30pm, carol service, followed by punch and mince pies.

Christ the King Cathedral, Liverpool (0151-709 3991): Dec 17: 5pm, candlelit procession followed by carol service.

NORTHERN IRELAND

St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh (01861 522802): Dec 17: 7pm, carol service.

St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast (01232 327573): Dec 17: 4pm, carol service by cathedral children's choir.

St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry (01504 262302): Dec 17: 7pm, carol service.

St Patrick and Colman Cathedral, Newry (01693 62586): Dec 17: 7.30pm, carol service by combined schools' choirs.

SCOTLAND

St Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow (0141-221 3096): 24th: 11.30pm Carol Service.

Motherwell Cathedral (01698 269114): Dec 18: 7.30pm, a feast of Christmas music.

Cadzow Parish Church (01698 269114): Dec 19: 7.30pm, carol service.

St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee, (01382 225228): Dec 17: 2.30pm, carol service led by Ceciliah Choir.

Good Shepherd Cathedral, Ayr, (01292 265716): Dec 24: 9.30pm, carol service.

St Columba's Cathedral, Oban, (01631 562123): Dec 24: 4pm, children's crib blessing; 11.30pm, carol service with soloist and harp.

St Mary's Cathedral Aberdeen (01224 640160): Dec 24: 11.30pm, carol service.

St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, (0131-556 1798): Dec 24: 11.30pm, A sequence of meditations and carols followed by midnight mass; **Jan 6:** 7.30pm, Epiphany carols and readings.

St Mirin's Cathedral, Paisley, (0141-889 3601): Dec 24: 11.30pm, carol service.

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AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS — A TIMES COMPETITION

Win a trip to Tasmania

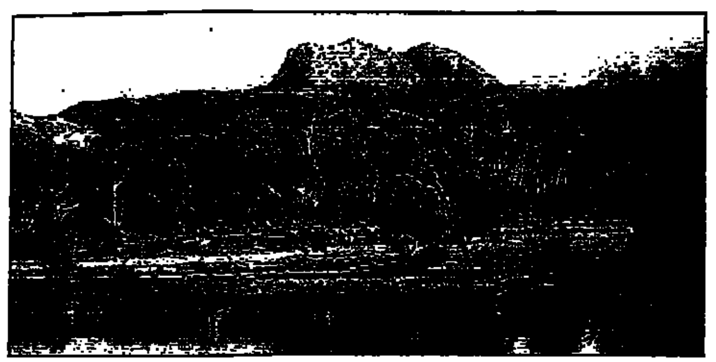
Today and every day until the end of December, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* are offering readers the exclusive chance to win one of 80 holidays for two worth more than £150,000 in total. You can also get ten per cent off all the holidays featured in our Around the World adventure.

Plus there is an opportunity to win £20,000 cash for an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

Today we begin a week of holidays to Australia, beginning in Tasmania (see right), continuing in The Sunday Times tomorrow with a holiday to Queensland and the Barrier Reef, and then there will be holidays taking in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, the ski resort of Thredbo and Perth.

The holidays are organised by Australian Pacific Tours, a family business which became one of the pioneers of tourism there in 1927. Now they are the leading coach tour operators in Australia and they have a team of leaders chosen for their knowledge of local flora and fauna, geology and history.

You will be taken to see the Blue Mountains, Kalgoorlie, Wave Rock, Esperance, Albany, Margaret River, Mount Kosciusko, Albury and Cradle Mountain, listed by the World Heritage Commission as "one of the planet's most precious places".



Cradle Mountain: listed as one of the planet's most precious places

There will be barbecue lunches, wine tastings and an opportunity to enjoy some spectacular scenery as well as see possums, wallabies, tiger cats and Tasmanian devils.

TEN PER CENT DISCOUNTS

Readers can take advantage of an exclusive ten per cent discount on every holiday featured during our 80-day Around the World competition. Many of them include five-star accommodation, superb meals, excursions led by qualified guides, individually tailored safaris and sightseeing.

Today's holiday, and all the holidays featuring land coach tours of Australia this week, do not include return flights (except for the prize winner). Once you have received your brochure, please call Cox & Kings who will quote for, and book, your flights in accordance with your itinerary.

To get a brochure for today's holiday and those featured in previous weeks, please write to: *The Times* Brochure Service, PO Box 9, Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8QQ.

Bookings should be made through Cox & Kings before February 28, 1996. All other terms and conditions relating to these holiday competitions and offers are contained in the brochures.

HOW TO WIN £20,000

Collect 30 of the 80 tokens which will appear every day in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* until December 28, for the chance to win £20,000 cash to spend on an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

Attach your 30 differently numbered tokens to the completed entry form below and you will be entered into our prize draw. Readers may collect 60 tokens for two chances of winning. Entries must be received by Jan 12, 1996.

HOLIDAY PRIZE WINNERS:

The winner of our holiday to Las Vegas was Mr M Thomas of Tenby, Dyfed; the holiday to New York was won by Mr L Naile of Southampton; the cruise to Latin America went to Ms S M Astbury of Shrewsbury; the winner of the cruise to Alaska was Mr Paul Real of Littlehampton, West Sussex and the Caribbean cruise was won by Miss M Boldon of Ryde, Isle of Wight.

Australian Pacific Tours (UK)LTD.

FOR YOUR 10% HOLIDAY DISCOUNT CALL FOR A BROCHURE ON: 01369 70 77 11

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS PRIZE DRAW ENTRY FORM

I enclose 30 tokens from *The Times/Sunday Times* and wish to enter the prize draw. Send to: Around The World Prize Draw, PO Box 6885, London E2 8SR. Closing date Friday January 12, 1996

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .... First Name .... PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Surname ....

Address ....

.... Postcode.......................

It would help us if you answered these four questions:

1. Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)

1) 15-24 ☐ 2) 25-34 ☐ 3) 35-44 ☐

4) 45-54 ☐ 5) 55-64 ☐ 6) 65+ ☐

2. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week?

....

3. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week?

....

4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

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Times Newspapers and its marketing partners would like to inform you of future products and offers. If you would prefer not to receive such information, please tick here. ☐

THE TIMES
Around
the World
in 80 Days
£20,000
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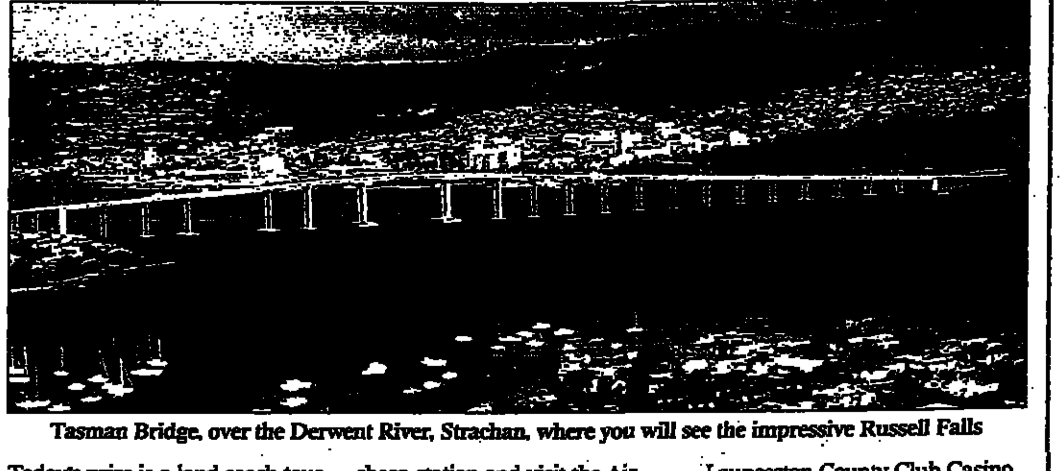
A nine-day holiday for two worth £3,700



Tasman Bridge, over the Derwent River, Strachan, where you will see the impressive Russell Falls

Today's prize is a land coach tour of Tasmania plus, for the *prizewinner, return flights from* the UK, worth more than £3,740.

LAND TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive Hobart in time for dinner. Stay overnight at Hotel Grand Chancellor. Day 2 Travel through the Huon Valley apple orchards then visit the Royal Botanical Gardens, Battery Point and Salamanca Place in Hobart. Day 3 See the spectacular Russell Falls and the World Heritage Wilderness Region, Cradle Mountain and Lake St Clair National Park. Visit Queenstown before staying overnight in Strachan. Day 4 Cruise across Macquarie Harbour and down the Gordon River; stay ovenight in cabins with log fires at Cradle Mountain Lodge. Day 5 Visit Dove Lake and Leven Canyon before touring the coast to Table Cape. Day 6 Travel to Woolnorth, a 22,000-hectacre sheep station and visit the Air Monitoring Station, reputed to *have the cleanest air in the world.* Day 7 Visit historic Standley and The Nut, a rocky outcrop 150 metres above sea level. Tour Devonport, through farmlands, to the Great Lakes Plateau. Day 8 Travel through the Swiss village of Grindelwald to Marion's Vineyard. Visit the Pilot Station, Maritime Museum and a lavender farm. Farewell dinner at the Launceston County Club Casino. Day 9 Depart for UK.

DATES OF DEPARTURE

April 5, 12, 19 and 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 1996. The 10% discount price of this tour (excluding flights) is £783, down from £870, includes twinshare accommodation and breakfast, 7 dinners, one lunch, touring, transfers and sightseeing as detailed in the itinerary.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win today's prize, phone your answers to the two questions below on our competition hotline: **0891 40 50 34** before midnight tonight. Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.
The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

THE QUESTIONS

1. How big is the sheep station at Woolnorth?

2. Where is said to have the cleanest air in the world?

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RICHMOND DINING CLUB Single & interested in wining & dining locally? 01483 414419

AMERICANS SEEK friendship, romance and marriage with British ladies & gentlemen! All ages! English Rose/English Connection, Romance House, 20 Albion Street, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1LU. Tel: 01843 863322 (24 hrs). As featured on National Television.

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CHRISTMAS is a-coming & the New Yr too! Need more friends who're occasional Churchgoers too? Then Connexions is the friendship club for you! (120 miles rad of London). Ring 0181 906 4467 for brochure.

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NEXUS Unattached and find yourself wishing Christmas wasn't just around the corner? There's still time to find out about Nexus in your area. (Parties, walks, holidays etc.) Ring for the brochure (012374) 71704, (0181) 367 6328 (0113) 2445186, (01869) 338801, (0141) 221 1090, (01202) 761006, (01286) 831699 or (0121) 472 1968 We're not a Dating Service or Marriage Bureau.

PARTY PARTY Christmas Party, fabulous venue, terrific music, dancing, tarot card readers, super crowd, Sunday 17th December 0171 289 0220

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LADIES

ATHLETIC stylish, academic, fifty-something desires tall humorous male counterpart based SE. Please Reply Box No 2319.

COMPANION - 56 sought, various interests, for petite, gregarious secretary. Reply Box 2340

BUBBLY Blonde Vibrant London lawyer 41 seeks special man for love and laughter Photo please to Box No 2463

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LADIES

ABSOLUTELY Hetrosexual female seeks others, ages 40-60 for mutual support and shared SOH, perhaps like me feeling 'cut off' and still a bit guilty 5 years after break-up of marriage Recently moved SW London. Interests - music (Schubert, Brahms, Mahler etc), art, reading, travel, mid price eating, not quite tee total, not quite veg. Please Reply to Box 2336.

ADVENTUROUS fit, attractive, lady seeks compatible companion for worldwide travel in the future: late 50s, early 60s, interested in arts, music, sport, good cuisine etc. at home and abroad S.East and London. Please Reply to Box No 2317.

ABSOLUTELY fabulously smouldering, tall, leggy, brunette. Superb, slender but curvaceous figure, class, charm, style and wit. London based, seeks a good looking cultured distinguished successful passionate, gentleman 45-60ish for love, laughter and life. Photo please Box 2215

ATTRACTIVE petite, blue-eyed brunette, 48. Likes sport, animals, theatre, the arts, eating out Seeks n/s, tall, kind, easy-going, successful gentleman, 45-55 For companionship. Photo please. S.E Surrey. Please Reply to Box No 2461

ALL ALONE under the Xmas tree? Wishing there were someone to share it with or perhaps to get away from it completely. Cosmopolitan, charismatic, confident petite blonde with GSOH. Independent but not PC. WLTM her equivalent in male form (only he should be in his fifties and not a petite blonde! preferably) Loves all the usual - country, France, cinema, food, etc. London/SE pref. Photo please to Box No 2490

ATTRACTIVE, prof lady, 38, pub sch ed, stable, affectionate, outgoing, slim, no ties, enjoys travel, politics (con), countryside, city lights. WLTM similar man 38-50 to share future. London, Surrey, Hants Please Reply to Box No 2465

ATTRACTIVE 50yr old, widowed, well-travelled, living and working in Kent, seeks tall gentleman, animal lover, who is financially secure, to share good sense of humour and evenings out. Please enclose photograph. Reply to Box No 2481

BUBBLY Old fashioned girl, GSOH, graduate, 33, Central London based seeks intelligent, sincere, decent chap. Please Reply to Box No 2506

ATTRACTIVE caring professional lady early 50s slim 5'6" with many interests - adventuresome and home loving Seeks special companion. S. Bucks. Pls Reply Box No 2388.

ATTRACTIVE lean graduate oriental lady 5'5" seeks kind, well educated gentleman, mid 30s - 40s to share good music, games, conversation, humour for permanent relationship Bucks. Please Reply to Box No 2600

AUBURN curls, laughing eyes and a warm smile, creative aquarian 33, 5'7, shapely curves and a wicked SOH, wants to have an entertaining time with a tall brawny chap not worried by mild eccentricity and a low boredom threshold! Photo preferred. North West. Please Reply to Box No 2359.

CULTURED woman, sophisticated, sensitive, sensual, mature, GSOH, seeks similar man. Please Reply to Box No 2806

EASY GOING, intelligent, independent lady, comfortable in wellies or a frock, n/s 40ish, S.Bucks: seeks articulate, happy gent. Please Reply Box 2412.

BUBBLY brunette, 28, N. Wilts. Into s.diving, sailing, h.riding, travel and big shaggy dogs, seeks similar professional 'mans' man, in same area for lasting relationship. Letter and photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2464

GLAM Gran 58 smoker seeks gentleman gallivant W. Sussex & Spain. Please reply Box 2426.

GORGEOUS American, 35, successful, Ph.D. seeks attractive laid back, over educated humorous gent 50ish. Send photo. Please Reply to Box No 2450.

DO YOU have intelligent eyes and a kind smile? I have an interesting life with a good job and masses of friends but have come to the end of a relationship, children have left home and I need someone to cherish. Please write if you are tall and 48-59 as I'm in serious danger of loosing my sparkle! Please Reply to Box No 2283

CHARMING Japanese 53, with 2 teenagers, enjoys painting, travel, walking, classical music etc Seeks intelligent, SOH and no smoking gentleman. London area. Please reply with photo to Box No 2462

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Exclusive introductions in the West Country.
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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE based, attractive financially independent widow, early 60s, with wide and varied interests, wishes to meet intelligent gentleman, similar age group, for friendship, travel, etc. Photograph appreciated. Box 2424.

DARK—Haired light hearted active, fun loving, cuddly, n/s 5'2" widow, 51, seeks kind relaxed romantic man to share life, music, theatre boats, laughter, conversation & occasional silence. SE Berks. Photo appreciated. Please Reply Box 2433.

INTENSELY individual introductions in London with Close Encounters - call Sue today 0171 289 3777.

5'2" eyes of blue, prof attractive 30 something, into travel, cinema, writing, arts, tap dancing, dining out, pubs, walks, seeks prof considerate, intelligent guy up to 45 initially for friendship. S/SW England. Box No 2362.

HIGHLY attractive ageless nordic lady. Internationally educated linguist, lovely homes northern Europe, Cote d'Azur, warm fun and intellectual interests, seeks retired gentleman of high social standing, around 68, for togetherness in France, UK, elsewhere. Box No 2381

HAPPY optimistic, warm professional, early 50s, attractive, slim, no ties, many interests, tired of being alone, hoping to find gentleman for companionship with possible life partnership. Surrey area. Box 2444.

FUN affection, laughter, music, good food and wine, romance and travel. I enjoy all the above and more. I am 33 (with children), dark hair, chatty and warm-hearted, full of laughter. South East UK. Please Reply to Box No 2485

FUNLOVING goodlooking easy-going hard-drinking young-thinking hardworking high-earning 40s woman needs man of similar temperament to make her near-perfect lifestyle perfect. Photo essential as partial proof of suitability. Box 2386

KIND, warm, loving, feminine, 5'6", attractive, latin looks, unique personality, good figure, 37, wants good, honest, lovely man, 37-52 with impulsive fun nature, to laugh together. Photo please. Reply Box No 2387

LONDON and Home Counties. Do you like the nice things in life? Are you male 40-50, tall, n/s, professional, solvent, with GSOH, looking for a 40s attractive, intelligent, stylish lady? All replies answered, photo please. Please Reply to Box No 2368.

OFFBEAT London female (young 51) seeks humorous friend and lover no Tories. Box No 2498

LOVELY lady, tall, slim, blonde, many interests, lively mind, seeks decent, educated man 50+, for friendship. Wales, Severn Bridge area. Box No 2389.

POCKET BLONDE Hotelier (S.W. Wales). Very attractive, warm, witty and outgoing, n/s, WLTM a handsome, mature, gentleman equally as successful, caring, bright and funny, preferably under 50, own hair and teeth essential, ectactic interests! Photo preferred. Please Reply to Box No 2363

MEN it's simple - one Free call equals 963 eligible, attractive women, plus an active social life at Close Encounters Cardiff, Bristol, Bath, Cheltenham, Swindon, Salisbury, Reading. 0800 141 141. Open every day.

OLDER MAN needed here! By young in heart, body and spirit grandmother (60's) intelligent, active, healthy. Interests architecture, jazz, gardens, travel. Own home, car and mind! Bath area. Reply to Box No 2504

WENDY (attractive 46), WLTM Peter Pan (50'ish) to be her Mr Darling. W. Sheffield. Please Reply to Box No 2372

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N.W. bubbly blonde WLTM intellectual with SOH, kind, tactile, unattached, 50+ and n/s. At home in City or Country, ashore or afloat. Arts orientation appreciated. Box 2466

NEW partner for 1996 sought. A gentle, supportive, long term partner between 40-60 for black senior manager south London based. Charm me with letter and photo. Box No 2403.

SAILING companion? Intelligent, attractive, woman artist seeks fit, amusing man, youthful 38-55. Please Reply Box 2431.

Very attractive woman, early 30s, seeks that someone special who considers himself truly above average. Box No 2373

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday and Sunday. Call free 0800 141 141.

THE BEST christmas present ever! gorgeous, professional outstanding female, 33, public school. Seeks tall, successful totally outstanding male. Please Reply to Box No 2458

YIPPEE! I've won the lottery. Cosmopolitan reader seeks a F.T. reader to advise and help her spend winnings. Pref tall 50+. S.O.H essential. Midlands. Please Reply to Box No 2418.

GENTLEMEN

COULD Race sponsor widow, (picture on rails), please reply again to retd./pol./off Details lost! Box 2031

BUSINESSMAN very successful, fit, young 50, central London, no ties, seeks attractive, presentable, lady Must be good company. Wide interests, including travel, theatre, cinema, socialising, country weekends Photograph appreciated Please Reply to Box No 2318.

BIG house in the West Country, nice car, nobody to share these and other good things in life. I am 48, have my own business, highly qualified Post Graduate of the University of Life. WLTM vivacious, fun loving sociable, sincere lady 28-40 for dining, weekends in the country and maybe long term relationship. Photo & letter to Box 2374

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GENTLEMEN

A NEW man for Xmas? If you're 28-44, bright & merry, I could be your ideal gift. Just present me with photo & no. and you could have a smart new package to unwrap. Remember, a man can be for life, not just Xmas. Box No 2356.

ADORE OPERA, champagne, balls, theatre, travel? Cultured Englishman, personable boyish 42, 5ft 10", n/s, London based, seeks gorgeous like-minded, ultra-elegant, superior lady. Photo Please. Box No 2380

A 6ft 2in, blue eyed, baby boomer, looking for an intelligent, 38-45 yr old partner. Preferably W. Midlands/ Cotswolds Modesty prevents too many superlative but, trumpets apart, I am an ex high flying professional who now recognises that there is more to life than work. My friends say I am stylish, relaxed, charismatic and unpretentious with a young outlook on life. If you would like to know more why not drop me a line with your phone number and your photograph. Please Reply to Box No 2344

A SIMPLE letter - and life gets better? Kind, handsomish, businessman, 57 longs for friendship with kind and prettyish Surrey/Sussex lady in 30s/40s. Please Reply to Box No 2399.

COULD WE be each others best xmas present? Me - 58, n/s, 5'11" professional man. Loves theatre, travel, cinema. You - under 50, intelligent, interesting, imaginative, intriguing. S. London, Surrey. Post Early. Please Reply to Box No 2452

ENGLISH country gentleman 48, 5'10", living central London/West Sussex. Affluent attractive and without emotional baggage, seeks honest, loyal, sincere younger lady for town/ country pursuits, friendship, romance and possibly marriage. Box No 2371.

ENTHUSIASTIC optimistic successful property professional 35. London working. Herts/ Bucks borders living, sporty (squash, tennis, skiing), laid back, entertaining, seeks n/s sincere, fun loving lady to romance. Box No 2145.

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DO YOU look good in Herve Leger? Wealthy early 40's bachelor. London base. Looking for independent stylish lady. Must enjoy travel, have a sense of humour and a zest for life. Please Reply to Box No 2469

ENGLISH gentleman, late 50s and unpretentious but with all the right physical, cerebral and financial attributes seeks black woman with maturity, intellect and breathtaking good looks. Please Reply to Box No 2429.

DOCTOR/MEDICAL Scientist. Widower, 68, slim, active, semi-retired, book-lover. Offers companionship, wine and log-fire in half-completed, but beautifully sited, isolated cottage with attached jungle on high and windy hill near Hereford, to slim lady 60-65, graduate or educated, wishing to opt out/write/paint/study/create kitchen garden/ or use as a base for outworking. The best is indeed yet to be, but there is much to do en route. Suit private type of lady not afraid of solitude and young enough to break free from their past. Do not reply on impulse, think this through as must be prepared to relocate at some stage. Please no pen friends, week-enders, counsellors J.P.'s or other memsahibs embedded in the social life of their community. Recent photo ensures reply. Please reply Box No 2188

FIT sporty, divorced, businessman, LSE graduate, young 44, Jat Sikh without turban WLTM attractive, intelligent lady with a zest for life, cooking, eating out, travel, sport and sharing. Age up to 40. Photo and letter will ensure reply. Box No 2397.

EXCEPTIONAL London guy with realistic approach towards life and access to material possessions WLTM an educated, adventurous and attractive lady. Photo/Phone appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2343

EX-KNIGHT Professional 34 years, GSOH, seeks professional 26-45 year old, semi disabled funny lady for good times or much more, what are you waiting for. Box No 2402.

FUN LOVING good looking company director with GSOH, Jewish, 43, 5'8", very solvent, sporty (enjoy skiing etc). Would like to spoil and pamper affectionate female under 40 who would not normally reply to personal ads. Sorry, no mums! London. Photo and phone No please to Box No 2801

I'M looking forward to life's next adventure and beyond. Would you like to join a 41 year old, slim, happy, musical, sporty, nice guy? Cheshire. Please Reply to Box No 2425.

LADIES it's simple - one free call equals 850 eligible, attractive men, plus an active social life at Close Encounters Cardiff, Bristol, Bath, Cheltenham, Swindon, Salisbury, Reading. Call 0800 141 141. Open every day

NICE GUY 47, seeks that special lady for Christmas and beyond. (Photo appreciated) Please Reply to Box No 2352

HANTS Berks Surrey, n/s professional man, early 40s, slim, fit, enjoys dining out, sport, wide range of interests, no ties, solvent. WLTM a younger intelligent woman who enjoys her independence but would appreciate a close partner. View long term relationship. Someone who values trust and loyalty. All letters answered. Box 2428

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ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday and Sunday. Call free 0800 141 141.

I KNOW I've travelled too far for too long but now I am ready to roost. So, my lady, if you can enjoy and share the good things in life with a successful, outgoing, attractive, baby faced 40 year old, then don't delay. Your photo and telephone number will get me off my perch. Respond soon to avoid the Xmas rush. Please Reply Box 2419.

INTENSELY individual introductions in London with Close Encounters - call Sue today 0171 289 3777.

LONELY attractive, very tall, slim, single (why?) Male of 32, quiet, gentle, easy going, open minded. Seeks honest, caring, sensual female. My interests include natural history, countryside, wildlife, travel and classical music. Reply Box 2455

NOW that he's turned 40 this blonde, slim, fit, 5'10", affluent corporate chairman, living in a London Georgian town house thats too big for one needs to calm and settle down with that elusive slender beautiful girl with a soft centre, 25-35, no flakes or psychotics please. Photos returned. Box No 2507

28 open minded caring male witm intelligent female 24-30 any cultural background. M40 region. Please Reply to Box No 2487

OXFORD Don, 57, still believes in romantic love. Does any tall, slim, passionate, affectionate lady believe likewise? Photo plse & will exchange. Box 2488

PASSIONATE personable, pragmatic, successful, sensual, single, athletic male seeks tall female, friend, confidante, playmate, lover to share secrets, sunsets, log fires, Bollinger, Mozart, Van Morrison, hopes and dreams. South/West. Reply with photograph to Box 2400.

SEVENTYISH retired lecturer, arts graduate, fit and active, n/s WLTM sixtyish (or younger) woman. South West. Please Reply to Box No 2321.

SINGLE professional, attractive, caring, male, 33, fit and sporty. Very solvent, enjoys skiing, walking and countryside. Seeks attractive, affectionate, n/s single female, 22-32, for lasting relationship. Hampshire. Photo please to Box No 2367

SINGLE bit seeks byte. Computer programmer, 40, graduate, n/s, likes travel, sightseeing, history, classical music, walking, wishes to open window of opportunity to n/s female preferably within 100 miles of Derby. Please Reply to Box No 2364.

SUCCESSFUL Indian professional 44, seeking to romance with a 26-35 year old childless attractive, sporty lady. Phone number please. Box No 2334.

STOCKING filler? Successful graduate businessman, 38, 6ft, slim, fit and creative seeks stylish lady (older?) for festive fun and frolics and hopefully a wonderful 1996. London/ Home Counties. Box No 2395.

TALL English businessman, Cambridge educated, divorced, WLTM English/Asian/Oriental lady in 30's for romance and long term relationship. Essex/London area. Please Reply to Box No 2496

TALL friendly gentleman of good appearance and humour seeks suitable quality lady (42-52) for caring and sharing. N. West Lancs, W. Yorks. Box 2484

TALL, slim, intelligent, male (46) with strong forceful personality, offers creative cuisine (not walks in the park) to unpretentious, adventurous, unfulfilled female 30's-40's. Box No 2460

TENNIS PRO early 30's, looking for one and only. Absolutely ready for meaningful relationship. Interests include, photography, modern art and motorbikes. If you are an attractive and sincere young woman in your 20's 30's and can see yourself sharing one or more of the above, then why don't we get together? Photo appreciated. All replies answered London Reply to Box No 2365

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

ONE *for* ONE
Introductions
&
Social Events

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هكذا من الاصل

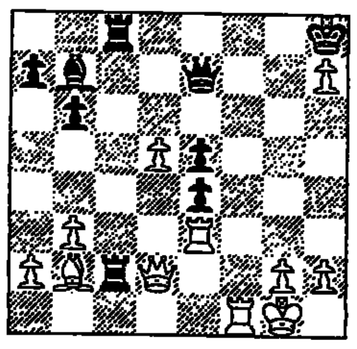
GAMES

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

PUBLISHERS are in festive overdrive. *The Amazing Book of Chess* by Gareth Williams (Tiger Books, £10.95) is one of the most colourful introductions to the game that I have seen. The classic Zukertort-Blackburne game of 1883 is depicted in a sequence of colour photographs of Dr Zukertort's own red and white ivory set.

W: Zukertort B: Blackburne



At this point, White produced the startling coup **28 Qb4!!** and play continued **28 . . . R8c5**. If Black accepts the queen with 28 . . . Qxb4, then 29 Bxe5+ Kxh7 30 Rh3+ Kg6 31 Rg3+ Kh7 32 Rf7+ Kh6 33 Bf4+ Kh5 34 Rh7, checkmate.

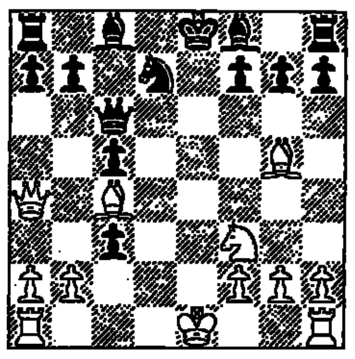
29 Rf8+. A further shattering sacrifice crushes Black's resistance.

29 . . . Kxh7 30 Qxe4+ Kg7
31 Bxe5+ Kxf8 32 Bg7+ Kg8
33 Qxe7

Black resigns.

For more advanced students, I recommend *Taimanov's Selected Games* (Cadogan Chess). Here is a sample of Taimanov's play:

W: Taimanov; B: Polugayevsky



12 0-0-0!! cxb2+. Both here and on the following moves, Black cannot accept the queen sacrifice, since he would be massacred on the central files. For example, 12 . . . Qxa4 13 Rhe1+ Be7 14 Rxe7+ Kf8 15 Rxf7+ Kg8 16 Rfxd7+ Qxc4 17 Rd8+ Kf7 18 Ne5+ Ke6 19 Nxc4, winning easily.

13 Kxb2 Be7 14 Rhe1 f6
15 Bb5 Qb6 16 Kc1 fxg5
17 Bxd7+ Kf8 18 Rxe7 Kxe7
19 Qe4+ Kd8 20 Bf5+ Kc7
21 Qe5+ Kc6 22 Rd6+ Kb5
23 Qb2+

Black resigns. In both these cases, White made a diversionary feint on the left flank involving a queen sacrifice.

For those who like to experiment with chess, a fascinating volume is *The Encyclopaedia of Chess Variants*, by David Pritchard (published by Games and Puzzles, £21.99). A valuable lesson from this book is that the form of chess we play is mirrored by equally fascinating Chinese and Japanese versions known respectively as Xiangqi and Shogi. There is a fertile ground for exploration of the interpretation of chess through Oriental cultures to be uncovered.

This brings me to Go, another boardgame for two in which black and white move alternately. It has fascinated many chessplayers, notably Dr Edward Lasker, who wrote widely about it. *Learn to Play Go: A Master's Guide to the Ultimate Game*, by Jeong Soo-Hyun and Janice Kim, is the ideal beginner's introduction. Published by the Good Move Press, it is usually £15, but *Times* readers, quoting this article, can obtain it for the special price of £12.50 from the British Go Association, 10 Vine Acre, Monmouth, Gwent NP5 3HW.

Anyone interested in acquiring chess magazines, books or computers for Christmas can contact the British Chess Magazine (0171-603 2877), the London Chess Centre (0171-388 2404) or Tournament Chess Supplies (01707 659080). Finally, the British Chess Federation has starter packs giving a full introduction to the game for £10 (01424 442500).

WINNING MOVE

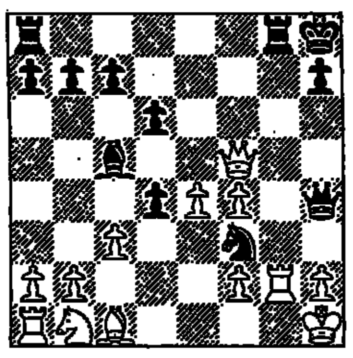
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Reiner - Steinitz, Vienna 1860. This is a typical 19th century position where White has grabbed material at the expense of his development. How did Black now punish him for his greed?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qg6+

Last week's winners: A Syed, Wokingham, Berks; M A Mortimer, Poringland, Norfolk; H Sakura, Oxford.



PUNCHLINE

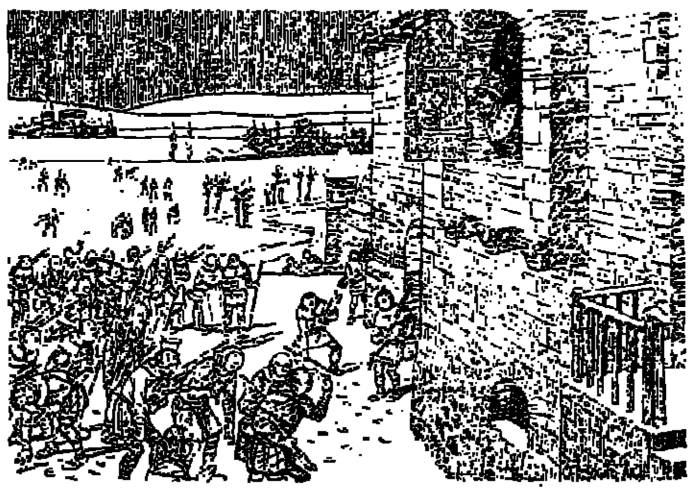
READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon, right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption 87, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, December 20.



WHAT OUR GOOD KING WENCESLASES HAVE TO PUT UP WITH.

CROWD OF "POOR MEN COME IN SIGHT, GATHERING WINTER FUEL" ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE KIND ACTION IMMORTALISED IN THE WELL-KNOWN CAROL.

'We'll just say that we're looking for your missing diamonds.'

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Mr M. Grant, of Fortrose, Ross-shire

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HEROLA
a. A catching game
b. An antelope
c. Chickpea paste

KAPPA
a. A coalscuttle bonnet
b. A chieftain
c A Greek letter

LIVEYERE
a. A permanent resident
b. A groom
c. A deformed ear

JHULA
a. An Indian sweet
b. A Gulf dhow
c. A rope bridge

Answers on page 17

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

HOW would you play this suit to make five tricks, if you had no entry problems?

983

AQ10762

This is the combination where you lay down the ace, re-enter the North hand and lead towards the queen. That way you only fail if West has K J x (x). The problem with finessing the queen (or ten) on the first round is that if it loses to the king (or jack), you are in doubt as to whether to take another finesse or play for the drop on the second round. Finessing again loses to K J alone with West, playing the ace loses to 3-1 breaks in which West started with the critical singleton honour.

Now how would you play if you were in the North hand for the last time? Say you lead the nine and East plays small. If the outstanding cards break 2-2 you will only lose one trick whatever you do. What about the 3-1 breaks? The critical case now is if West started with a singleton. As a small singleton is twice as likely as a specific honour singleton (there being two small cards missing and only one specific honour), it is correct to finesse. But is it right to run the nine or play the queen? It is a guess — running the nine gains against J x x with East, finessing the queen gains against K x x with East. Are there any other considerations?

Look at the suit-handling problems on the following hand in the recent World Championships (see top of next column). Several declarers went off in Six Spades.

	♠983 ♥AJ7 ♦QJ1082 ♣A5	
♠- ♥932 ♦9643 ♣K109642	N W E S	♠KJ54 ♥Q105 ♦75 ♣J873
	♠AQ10762 ♥K864 ♦AK ♣Q	

Contract: Six Spades by South

Against a diamond lead it is reasonable to lay down the ace of spades, to guard against any bare honour in the West hand. It is the best play against 2-2 and 3-1 breaks, when declarer has two entries to dummy. But the 4-0 break means the declarer needs a third entry to dummy, and with the heart finesse wrong the contract fails.

On a club lead the declarer needs the ace of hearts for entry to the long diamonds, so the problem in spades is the second one I outlined above. Some declarers played a spade to the queen at trick two, but then could not recover — they eventually had to rely on the heart finesse, and were one down.

The only declarer to succeed was Sue Picus of USA1, in the Venice Cup. She won the club lead and ran the nine of spades at trick two, after which she had no problem negotiating the rest of the play. As I point out above, it's a toss up what you do on the 3-1 breaks, but running the nine gains against the 4-0 break.

Picus saw that extra chance, and it paid off.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

SWINGING TIMES

UNTIL now, Disney's impact on home software in Britain has been something of a Mickey Mouse affair. While few companies come to children's entertainment with more valuable experience, it has taken it a surprisingly long time to establish a niche-hold.

Part of the problem relates to the quality of Disney software. It was invariably too sophisticated. **The Animation Studio**, for example, came out around five years ago, and it was no understatement when the packaging claimed it to be state of the art. The title was too powerful, with an engine so technical that only children with degrees in popular mechanics could exploit the possibilities.

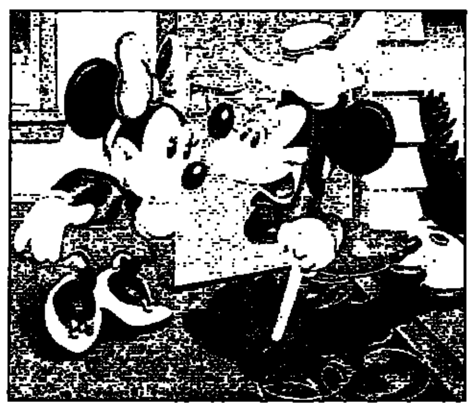
Now all that has changed with a simplification makeover. In the latest series from Disney, the emphasis has switched from the elaborate to the widely accessible. The titles rely on simple point-and-click techniques, and even young children can load them thanks to refreshingly clear instalment instructions.

Starting with the bare necessities to produce a captivating platform game, there is **The Jungle Book**, released on various formats. Here you must lead Mowgli clambering and vine-swinging from screen to screen and return him safely to the human village. The animation and effects are first class, accompanied by an enticing music score.

The Aladdin Activity Centre includes a variety of games in four areas: the Cave of Wonders, Sultan's Palace, Argrabah marketplace and the cinema. Solve puzzles, mazes, memory teasers, simple music and spelling games and, when you need a break, sit back to enjoy clips from the film. There are three skill levels and, should you get lost, the genie is on hand.

A **Lion King Activity Centre** is also in the pipeline, although several Lion King spin-offs already abound. There is a platform game, again on formats ranging from PC and Amiga, to Sega and Nintendo consoles and hand-helds.

Meanwhile, **The Lion King Animated Storybook** is a faithful telling of the story. Click on a word, character or picture to see the tale come to life. There is also a **Lion King Print Studio**, in which children marry text and design styles with 100 pictures from the film and make everything from faxes to greetings cards. All images can be printed in colour, as well as black and white.



The timeless appeal of Mickey and Crew

Perhaps the Disney title with the most timeless appeal is the **Mickey and Crew Print Studio**, which has a database of 200 poses and pictures of Mickey, Mini, Donald and others. To add the touch of big-brother authenticity, anything you print out from the above titles will automatically carry the Disney copyright line.

THE LITERARY LINE

IT IS not always easy to explain in lay terms the enormity of storage possibilities on a single CD-Rom, but Andromeda Interactive's **Classic Library** goes a long way in trying. Here, on one disk, is a collection of over 2,000 works by more than 100 authors, from Aristotle to W.B. Yeats, including 55 novels, 365 poems or poem collections and nearly 300 short stories.

You can approach texts in a host of ways. The package, on Mac or Windows PC CD-Rom, also features comprehensive biographies and a word-processor enabling you to write reports, and copy in chunks of the works. You can edit selections, change their font and even the colour of the type.

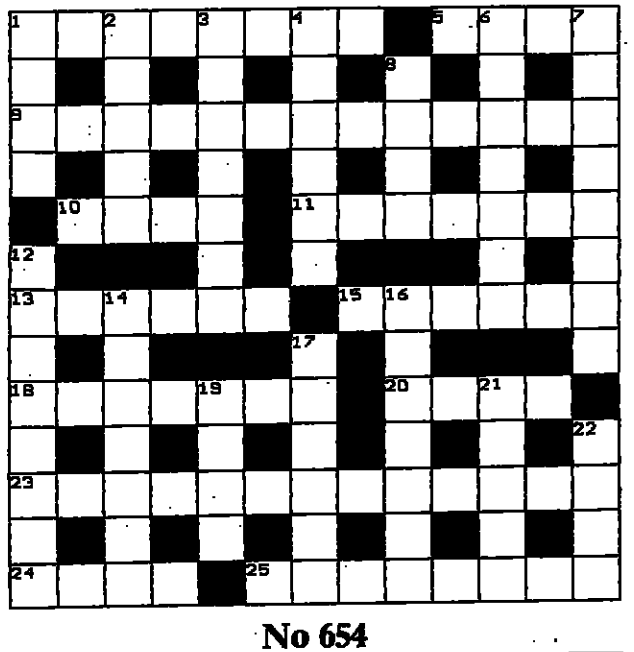
Andromeda's sister title is equally impressive: **William Shakespeare — The Complete Works.** More than 40 titles feature — and more than ten use *Schools Shakespeare* text, with line-by-line analysis of difficult phrases and words, as well as notes on main characters and plot summaries.

This boasts the more ambitious search features. As well as sifting text keywords and quotations, you can trace characters, subplots, ideas and imagery. The programme includes a self-standing word-processor which makes light work of school essays or detailed dissertations. An examination and classwork section provides comprehension and essay questions plus suggested answers.

By contrast, a dreadfully diluted affair on CD-Rom — and CD-i — is Philips's ludicrous 1995 **All The News and Views**. It is alarmingly incomplete, finished over a month before the end of the year it records, while the multimedia clips are slight. It does as much for critical analysis of the current affairs of 1995 as a shopping channel.

"Literature is the art of writing something that will be read twice, journalism what will be read once." Cyril Connolly, 1938.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 654

ACROSS
1 Trustworthy (8)
5 Victim of Cain (4)
9 Completely outclass (3,5,5)
10 Cheeky (4)
11 Push oneself unpleasantly forward (7)
13 Gift in will (6)
15 To bandage; width of cut grass (6)
18 Queen Anne's successor (6,1)
20 Apply tongue to (4)
23 Card game; they're alike (*Tolstoy*) (5,8)
24 Work in verse (4)
25 A touching excuse (3,5)

DOWN
1 Hard to find; very choice (4)
2 Thrust forward (5)
3 From the largest contingent (7)
4 Water behind coral reef (6)
6 Scent; posy (7)
7 Snagged (tights) (8)
8 Brisk pace (4)
12 Admiral's vessel (8)
14 Pop-star hanger-on (7)
16 Waterproof boots (abbr.) (7)
17 The Barber of Seville (6)
19 Francisco de —, Spanish portraitist (4)
21 Capital of Egypt (5)
22 That surprises me! (1,3)

SOLUTION TO NO 653

ACROSS: 2 Butter up 6 Gaffer 8 Rubber 9 Discuss 10 Aztec 12 Anno Domini 16 Unflagging 18 Crime 20 Smarten 21 Chintz 22 Catkin 23 Astonish

DOWN: 1 Radiant 2 Brush off 3 Toucan 4 Rebut 5 Piracy 7 Factotum 11 Ziggurat 13 Inasmuch 14 Interim 15 Acacia 17 Newton 19 Idiot

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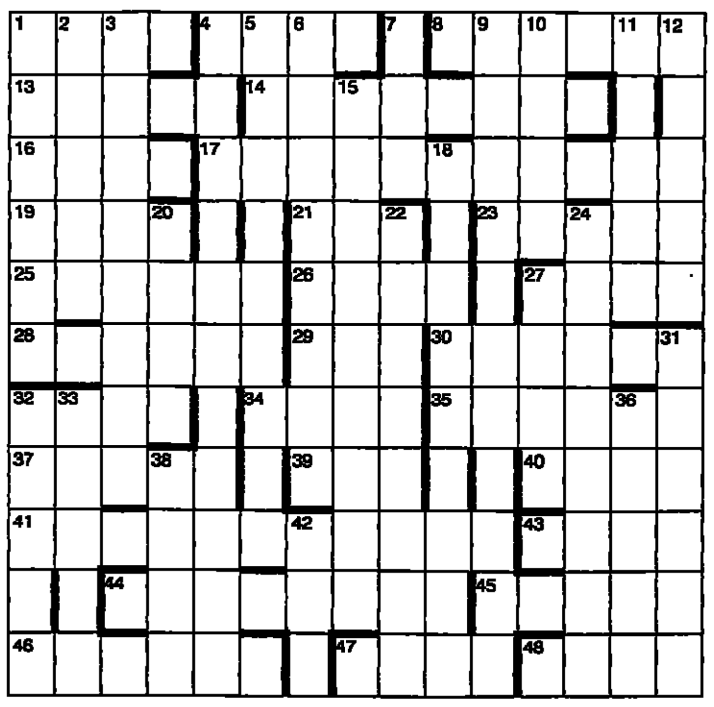
THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3336: The Plays of the Bard — II by Salamanca

Henry VI, Part 2(a). Downs for the most part are entered in jumbled form, no letter in an answer appearing in its correct square. Variations on these mostly identify a self-symmetrical area which should be shaded in by solvers. Acrosses are clued and entered normally for the most part, but in some cases the theme is pursued in a different way. One simple combination is not in Chambers (1993), which is otherwise recommended.

ACROSS
1 Ladies so awkward once determined?
4 One way one's held flag
8 Not being sparing with one's colour
13 Original American, say, one eastern state one
14 Gum from tree that's no good — hollow, one is, inside
16 Sailing boats no longer can (except in Scotland!)
17 Alkaloid produced by plant, found in west-facing limb at 4½?
19 Real bit of of beech tree
21 Knowledge in a particular department!
23 Little creature's one to move about round Queen? That's the wrong way to put it!
25 Not so much attention is required in short old lessons
26 Some, however hard inside, can be turned
27 Prepare Ena's ditty (cut out nasty bits)
28 Reject Shakespeare's witty answer about former injury
29 Prepare land as they used to for canal and river
30 Contact which gets you connecting with difficulty with Spain
32 Mac to line . . . . with care, having made this milk container?
34 Letters: . . . . added on to end of them?
35 Some bonds which are inevitable
37 Big porky person round about
39 Name for ruler, say, rightly abbreviated as . . . ?
40 Bones old fool tossed
41 Happy to restrict one in a thousand preventing spread
43 Man, say, flying through space
44 It's speed that's involved when having to avoid pedestrians
45 Horses which run in trodden routes
46 Believed long dead, reappearing in new guise, has you thrown into confusion
47 Particle of new timber, rounded
48 A black retsina, possibly? I no longer use it!

DOWN
1 Flowed once, like one form of transport?
2 Fans and ice-creams? These can show what weather's like!
3 Eg Adolf Hitler, the first person on the Continent to start the war all over
4 Poor beggar in red that's cheap and tawdry in design
5 Mount, a small piece raised, which is stuck into lapel
6 The Italian ones who take girls out smother those who talk a lot
7 Law kept by all exiles
9 These may be carried out since points require refurbishing
10 Talent found in number of Americans?
11 Country vegetable in season, a little green one
12 Prelude to cheer (for the stars) and stripes!
15 Such property has term, ie, carefully allocated
18 Join firm of FCAs?
20 First Disney computer-film of fashion right in the market-place?
22 Daub restricted by wise government
24 Wave leather strap in mistake
27 Where's water from roof run first?
31 They get exercise sticking fish?
32 Blackstone badger
33 Red colouring one is mixing
36 French impressions one would look up at?
38 Small local fired with energy
42 Moral slip — appearing in mug that's contemplative



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3336

In association with CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No. 3336, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, December 28.

The winner will receive: **The Cambridge Encyclopedia**, the most up-to-date and comprehensive one-volume encyclopedia available, with over 36,000 entries; **The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language**, a highly illustrated format embracing every aspect of the English language in one volume; and **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**, covering all the major writers and movements in literature written in English up to the present. Two runners-up will receive **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**.

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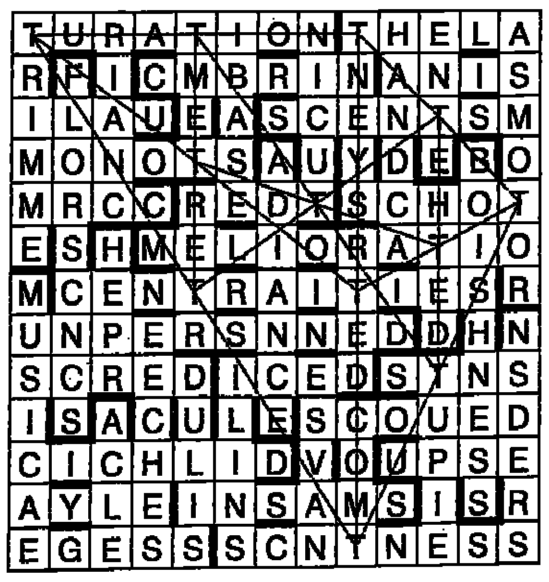

T	U	R	A	T	I	O	N	T	H	E	L	A
R	F	I	C	M	B	R	I	N	A	N	I	S
I	L	A	U	E	A	S	C	E	N	T	S	M
M	O	N	O	T	S	A	U	Y	D	E	B	O
M	R	C	C	R	E	D	T	S	C	H	O	T
E	S	H	M	E	L	I	O	R	A	T	I	O
M	C	E	N	T	R	A	I	T	I	E	S	R
U	N	P	E	R	S	N	N	E	D	D	H	N
S	C	R	E	D	N	C	E	D	S	T	N	S
I	S	A	C	U	L	E	S	C	O	U	E	D
C	I	C	H	L	I	D	V	O	U	P	S	E
A	Y	L	E	I	N	S	A	M	S	I	S	R
E	G	E	S	S	S	C	N	T	N	E	S	S

Solution to No. 3333: Twelve Threes

Omitted letters spell CAMPION: LOOK TO THE LADY: MARGERY ALLINGHAM. The alternative form of the title is TWELVE THREES (=A), becoming with successive omissions TWELVE TREES (=B) and TWELVE TEES (=C); in chapter 12 of the book Campion uses the name Christopher Twelvetrees, while to the gypsies he is known as ORLANDO (centre of main diagonal).

The old puzzle is that of planting trees in rows; here the twelve trees, appearing in the answers to the normal clues, are represented by twelve tees (the only occurrences of the letter in the diagram), arranged in twelve threes, in such a way that each tree is in precisely three rows. The clue to 26 Across suggests that the lines joining the trees be drawn on the grid.

The winner is Dr D.J. Flower of Chipping Warden, Oxfordshire. The runners-up are S.E. Crow of Glenrothes, Fife, and Malcolm Fairy of East Bridgford, Nottingham.

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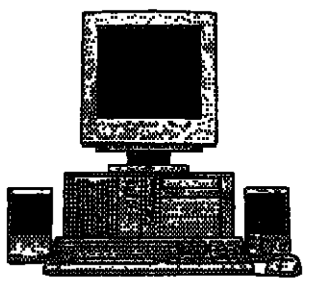
Multimedia Time Machine 95 B



486DX4-100

- 486DX4-100 processor
- 8Mb RAM
- 850Mb enhanced IDE hard disk with 256k cache
- 32-bit VESA local bus graphics
- Superb 15" SVGA NI low radiation colour screen
- 1.44Mb floppy drive
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- Twin stereo speaker system
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- PC microphone
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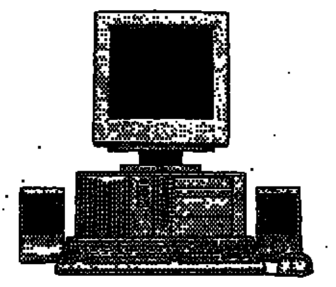
- 10 superb CD multimedia titles (see below)

£39* Per Month

£159.15 deposit and 24 monthly payments of £53 OR £495.15 deposit and 24 monthly payments of £39. Total price £1199 +VAT = £1431.15 inc. delivery and VAT. APR 0%.

Model A: 486DX2-66........................£Call

Multimedia Time Machine 95 C



75MHz Pentium®

- Intel® 75MHz Pentium® processor
- 8Mb RAM
- 850Mb enhanced IDE hard disk with 256k cache
- 64-bit PCI local bus graphics
- Superb 15" SVGA NI low radiation colour screen
- 1.44Mb floppy drive
- Omega desktop case with 7 bays
- 102 Keyboard and deluxe Microsoft compatible mouse
- Microsoft Windows 95
- Double speed IDE CD-ROM drive
- 16-bit high quality stereo sound card
- Twin stereo speaker system
- PC joystick
- PC microphone
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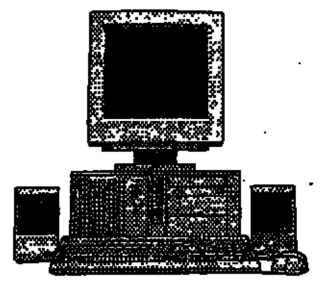
- 10 superb CD multimedia titles (see below)

£49* Per Month

£156.65 deposit and 24 monthly payments of £58 OR £372.65 deposit and 24 monthly payments of £49. Total price £1299 +VAT = £1548.65 inc. delivery and VAT. APR 0%.

Multimedia Time Machine 95 D



75MHz Pentium®

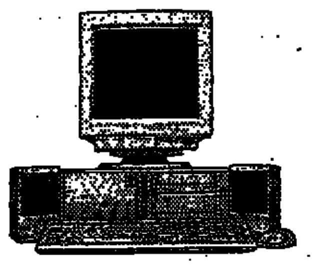
- Intel® 75MHz Pentium® processor
- 8Mb RAM
- 850Mb enhanced IDE hard disk with 256k cache
- 64-bit PCI local bus graphics
- Superb 15" SVGA NI low radiation colour screen
- 1.44Mb floppy drive
- Omega desktop case with 7 bays
- 102 Keyboard and deluxe Microsoft compatible mouse
- Microsoft Windows 95
- Quad speed IDE CD-ROM drive
- 16-bit high quality stereo sound card
- Twin stereo speaker system
- PC joystick and PC microphone
- 14.4 BABT approved fax and data modem
- Easy to use fax and comms software
- Introductory subscription to CompuServe with Internet mailbox
- Lotus software bundle with 34 leading applications (see below)
- 10 superb CD multimedia titles (see below)

£59* Per Month

£178.15 deposit and 24 monthly payments of £62 OR £250.15 deposit and 24 monthly payments of £59. Total price £1399 +VAT = £1666.15 inc. delivery and VAT. APR 0%.

Model D2: 100MHz Pentium® Colossus midi-tower with 1.08Gb hard disk, 256K cache and above spec. *£69 per month. Call for details*

Multimedia Time Machine 95 E2



100MHz Pentium®

- Intel® 100MHz Pentium® processor
- 16Mb RAM
- Intel Triton chipset with 256k cache
- 1.08Gb enhanced IDE hard disk with 256k cache
- 64-bit PCI graphics with 2Mb video RAM
- Superb 15" SVGA NI low rad colour screen
- 1.44Mb floppy drive
- Colossus desktop case with 7 bays
- 102 Keyboard and deluxe Microsoft compatible mouse
- Microsoft Windows 95
- Six speed IDE CD-ROM drive
- 16-bit high quality stereo sound card
- Twin stereo speaker system
- PC joystick and PC microphone
- 14.4 BABT approved fax and data modem
- Easy to use fax and comms software
- Introductory subscription to CompuServe with Internet mailbox
- Lotus software bundle with 34 leading applications (see below)
- 10 superb CD multimedia titles (see below)

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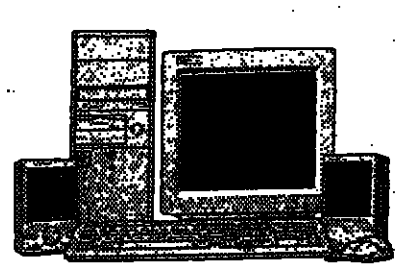
£259.15 deposit and 24 monthly payments of £88 OR £475.15 deposit and 24 monthly payments of £79. Total price £1999 +VAT = £2371.15 inc. delivery and VAT. APR 0%.

APPROVED for con[illegible] telecommunication systems specified in [illegible] for use subject to the cond[illegible] in them

Multimedia Time Machine 95 F



120/133MHz Pentium®

- Intel® 120 or 133MHz Pentium® processor
- 16Mb RAM
- Intel Triton chipset with 256k cache
- 1.6Gb enhanced IDE hard disk with 256k cache
- 64-bit PCI graphics with 2Mb video RAM
- Superb 15" SVGA NI low rad colour screen
- 1.44Mb floppy drive
- Colossus midi tower case with 8 bays
- 102 Keyboard and deluxe Microsoft compatible mouse
- Microsoft Windows 95
- Six speed IDE CD-ROM drive
- 16-bit high quality stereo sound card
- Twin stereo speaker system
- PC joystick and PC microphone
- 28.8 BABT approved fax and data modem
- Easy to use fax and comms software
- Introductory subscription to CompuServe with Internet mailbox
- Lotus software bundle with 34 leading applications (see below)
- 10 superb CD multimedia titles (see below)

£89* Per Month

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Model G: 133MHz Pentium® full tower with PCTV & 3.2Gb tape back-up ....£Call

15" to 17" upgrade.........add £199+ VAT= £233.83

Pre-Loaded Software**

Remember a computer is useless without software and the software included with these systems enables their use for virtually any application. As well as our standard Lotus Software Suite, we include leading applications such as TurboCAD for home designs and CAD, Pressworks desktop publisher, Designworks drawing pack, PC Paintbrush paint program and more! - A total of thirty four applications and ten full-feature multimedia CDs.

Business Software

- Lotus 1-2-3 v5 spread sheet
- Lotus Ami Pro v3.1 word processor
- Lotus Approach v3 database
- Lotus Organizer v2
- Lotus SmartPics graphics
- Lotus Training for 1-2-3, Ami Pro and Approach
- GSP Pressworks 2 desktop publisher
- GSP Designworks 3 graphics pack
- TurboCAD for Windows CAD pack
- Organize your way organiser
- CV & Job search pro
- Masterclips SE clipart
- Picture This graphics system
- Intuit Quicken v4 personal finance pack
- Pacioli 2000 Business Accounts

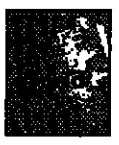
Educational / Leisure Software

- Fun School 4
- Fun School Maths
- Fun School 5 In Time
- Fun School Spelling
- Fun School Paint & Create
- EZ Language French, German and Spanish
- Computerworks, Bodyworks and Autoworks
- Dinosaurs for Windows
- Doom, Blake Stone, Raptor and Pinball shareware games

CD Multimedia Software

WinTutor 95

Infopedia



World Atlas

Bodyworks

Time Almanac

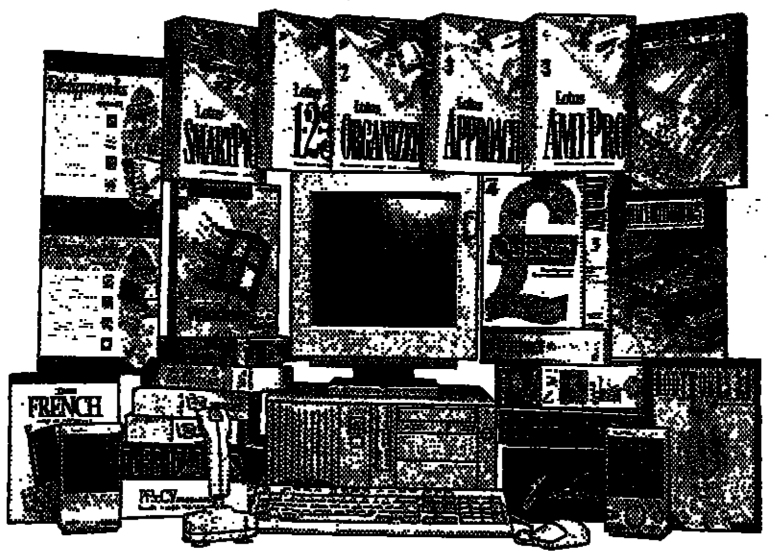
EZ Language

Play & Learn

UFO

Dinosaur Museum

Shareware



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Superb NEC 6 page per minute laser printer for only

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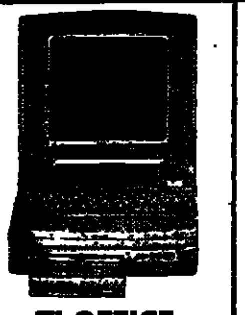
Epson Colour Inkjet Pack

from **£19.50*** per month - call for details!

Texas Instruments Multimedia Notebooks

Superb TI colour notebooks from £1149 + VAT=£1350.07



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Other models: call for details

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P75 525Mb 8Mb with internal CD-ROM	£2299+VAT=£2701.33

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- 32-bit local bus graphics with 1Mb
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- Microsoft® Windows® 95
- Software suite including Lotus 1-2-3, Ami Pro, Organizer, Approach, SmartPics, Quicken and AutoRoute

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BEST BUY2

486DX4-100, 540Mb, 8Mb and dual scan ....£1599+VAT=£1878.83

BEST BUY3

486DX4-100, 540Mb, 8Mb and TFT ....£1999+VAT=£2348.83

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New full feature 486DX2-66, 540Mb multimedia system

System Specification

- 486DX2-66, 486DX4-100 or Intel® 75MHz Pentium® processor
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- Double speed IDE CD-ROM drive
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- Doom, Pinball, Raptor and Blake Stone arcade games
- 5 Fun School Packages covering all the essential elements of the National Curriculum
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Best Buy: 850Mb with 0.28 screen		£627+VAT & Del = £759.05
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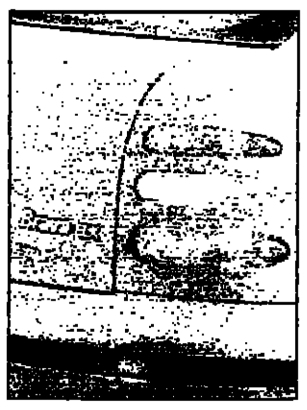
Our guide to the automotive Christmas stocking

Page 3

CAR 95

What makes a Car of the Year such fun to drive?

Page 5

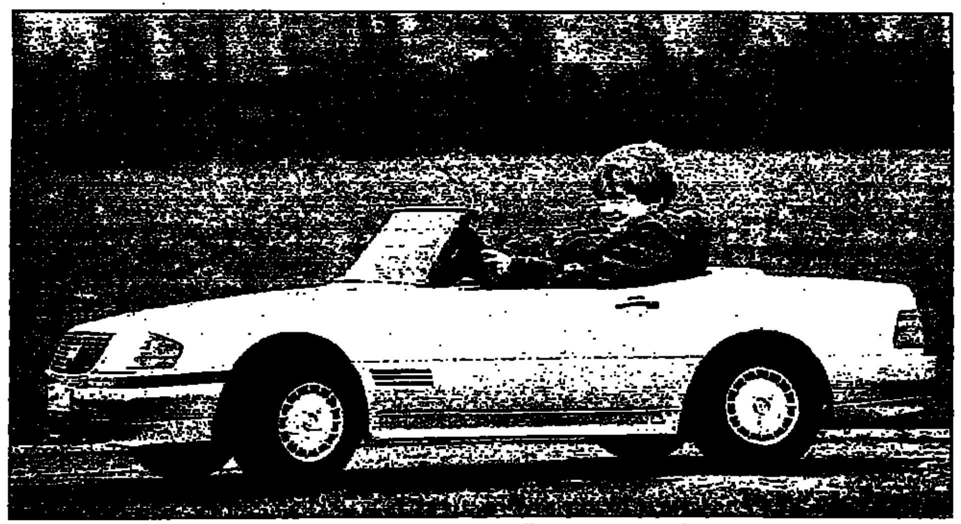


SATURDAY DECEMBER 16 1995

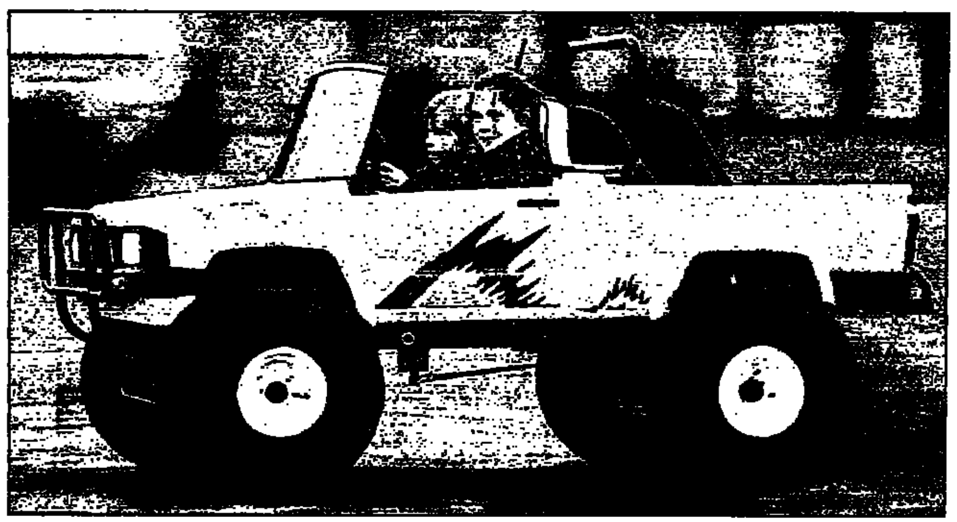
Pedals are no longer necessary; today's children can virtually drive the genuine article, says **Jennai Cox**

MICHAEL POWELL

Road test at Hague Primary School, east London; with speeds up to 5mph, for a few scary minutes mayhem reigned as the children got accustomed to a toy that moved at the press of a pedal and forgot to look where they were going



Delilah Rooney drives a Mercedes 560L: "When are we going to get one, Mum?"



Camilla and Delilah Rooney in the "Little Foot" — which would cost their parents £5,200

Mini cars for mini motorists

Driving is the number one aspiration of British children. Research by toy manufacturers, shows that getting behind the wheel of a motorised vehicle appeals to the under-12s more than any other play activity.

And in their efforts to meet children's demands for ever more sophisticated wheels, toy car makers now offer a range which includes miniature Jeeps and Jaguars as well as more traditional buggies powered by everything from pedals to petrol.

Miniature Mercedes and other limousines have been made to order or as gifts since the beginning of the century, costing nearly as much as the real thing. A scaled-down Aston Martin presented to Prince Andrew in 1966 was then valued at £5,000, equivalent to almost £50,000 today.

But battery-powered motors have made child-size cars more accessible and affordable. The average price is down from the thousands to nearer the £300 mark and the market for miniature cars grew by a third in 1995. By Christmas 100,000 cars, worth £12 million, will have been bought and according to Dave Coombs, editor of *Toy Retailer*, the market could grow by another 50 per cent in 1996.

A group of five- to eight-year-olds road-tested some leading brands at the Hague Primary School in east London this week. They just could not wait to get into the driving seats of the 10 vehicles we provided. All the girls rushed for the Fisher-price Barbie Beach Patrol.

"We like it because it is pink and the phone says 'Let's go and get some pizza'," said six-year-old Roshida Begum. The makers claim that the beach patrol mobile phone has 100,000 phrases, trucks come with walkie-talkies while other vehicles feature radio cassette players. Boys preferred the Feber Samurai Trueno 4x4 vehicle with two speeds and the Kawasaki Ninja with switches for realistic engine sounds.

The 12-volt cars are powerful enough to climb hills

Top speed on most of these vehicles is 5mph, which seems faster than it sounds, and for a few scary minutes mayhem reigned as the children got accustomed to being in control of a toy that moved at the press of a pedal and forgot to look where they were going. Riding the Custom Classic motorbike, Colin Noor said he felt like a grown-up: "It would be great to have racing games with friends on this." After a few minutes, most of the children could zoom round in a Feber Mercedes BP Rally Truck, Quad Baywatch or a Big Jake Dump Truck with the confidence to steer themselves clear of any obstacle. "We won't need any practice when we get older now," said Rahel Roof. "When I tell my older sister, she's going to be really jealous."

Toy manufacturers try to ensure the cars are parent-friendly as well. Restricted space and busier roads contributed to the downfall of the children's car after the golden era of the 1930s. Today's cars can be kept outside, are lightweight and compact enough to be lifted into the back of a car to be taken to the nearest park and driven on any surface. The 12-volt cars for any child over about four are powerful enough to climb hills.

Prices vary according to ability and speed capabilities. Top-of-the-range replica Mercedes or Range Rovers cost around £4,000, are petrol powered and come with a semi-automatic five speed gearbox, including reverse, full lighting and emergency switch off button.

Six-year-old Delilah Rooney in the plush seat of the silver two-seater Mercedes said: "Oh gosh, it's a real car. A petrol one with real lights and a radio. When are we going to get one, Mum?"

Most best sellers, such as

Continued on page 3

WIN A MERCEDES 560SL

Today readers are offered the opportunity to win a Junior Mercedes 560SL, worth nearly £4,000. Nine runners up will receive a Little Tikes Grand Coupe car, worth £64.99 each. The petrol-driven Junior Mercedes 560SL, made by Bullitt Miniature Cars, is every child's dream car, with a top speed of 14mph. The winner's car will be made to order and finished in a choice of five colours with customised trim and accessories. The scale of the car and the adjustable pedals make it possible for children from four years to teenage to drive it, and there is enough legroom for an adult to sit alongside younger drivers while they learn.

Another Little Tikes model, the Cozy Coupe, a red and yellow car for toddlers, is the bestselling car in Britain, beating the Ford Escort by some 5,000 last year. Aimed at children aged between 18 months and five, it features a single opening door, a key, a working horn and a petrol cap.

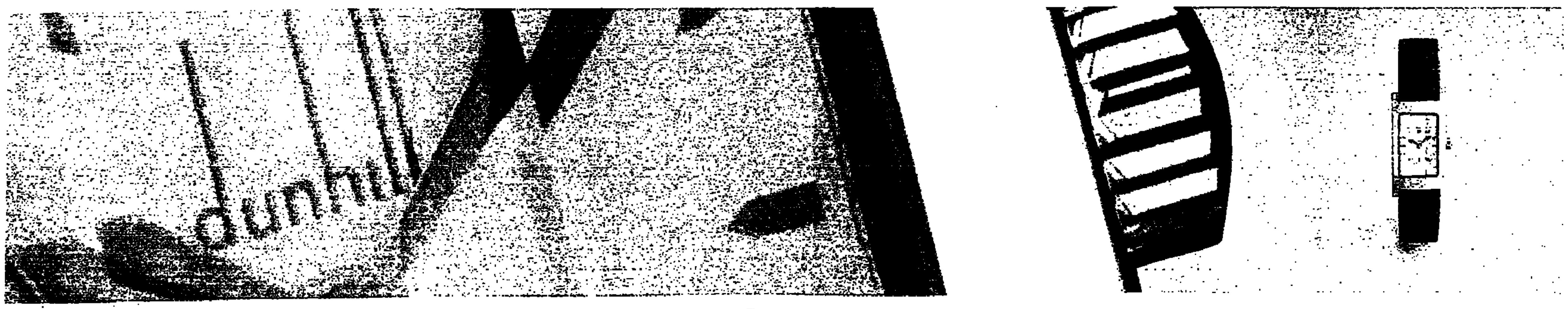
To enter the competition simply answer the two questions below and telephone your answers through to our hotline number on **0891 405 024** before midnight on Friday, December 22. The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received up to the closing date, and notified by post. Normal Times Newspaper competition rules apply. Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times.

Questions:

1. What is the top speed of the Junior Mercedes 560SL?
2. How much did Prince Andrew's scaled-down Aston Martin cost in 1966?

Prizes: Little Tikes Grand Coupe cars, worth £64.99

ALFRED DUNHILL



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Sought after since 1893.

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**

A40 Western Avenue, Acton. Major roadworks between Hilary Road and the Northern roundabout, Traffic reduced to two lanes each way.

A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks continue at the Lea Valley viaduct.

B510 West End Lane, West Hampstead. Between today and Tuesday completely closed outside West Hampstead Underground station in connection with ongoing bridge work. This closure will result in *severe* congestion on the diversion routes, which include the A5 Kilburn High Road and A41 Finchley Road.

A501 Euston Underpass. Between midnight Friday 15 and midnight tomorrow closed both ways for maintenance work. Expect long delays on the Euston and Marylebone Roads all weekend.

A102M Blackwall tunnel northern approach. Between 9pm Friday 15 and 9pm tomorrow *closed both ways for weekend* roadworks underneath the A13 interchange. Expect long delays through and around the tunnel.

A13 Limehouse. Between 23 December and 2 January, Commercial Road closed in both directions between Branch Road and Butcher Row for replacement of a rail bridge. Expect delays through the Limehouse Link tunnel.

● **SOUTH EAST**

M3 Surrey. Roadworks with lane closures between junctions 1 and 2.

A5 Buckinghamshire. Roadworks and lane closures at Milton Keynes, between the A422 Abbey Hill junction and Kelly's Kitchen roundabout.

● **SOUTH WEST**

M32 Avon. Widening work continues on the link between junction 19 of the M4 and Bristol city centre, with lane closures and restrictions.

M5 Gloucestershire. Roadworks and lane closures between junctions 11 and 12.

M5 Somerset. Bridge repairs with lane closures both ways between junctions 21 and 22.

A386 Devon. Temporary traffic lights for roadworks at the Moorland Links junction, between Roborough and Yelverton.

A419 Gloucestershire. Water main repairs at South Cerney, between Swindon and Cirencester, with long tailbacks at peak times.

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**

M50 Hereford & Worcester. Roadworks and lane closures in both directions between junctions 1 and 2.

M6 Staffordshire. One lane closed northbound for roadworks near junction 14.

M42 Warwickshire. Closed southbound this weekend at junction 8 (the M6 loop) for repairs.

A6 Leicestershire. Major roadworks and contraflow at Lockington, between junction 24 of the M1 and Sawley Island.

A47 Norfolk. Two sets of major roadworks, *at Terrington St* John (between Wisbech and King's Lynn) and at Swaffham.

A11 Cambridgeshire. Work on new dual carriageway is almost complete, with restrictions between Stump Cross and Worsted Lodge.

● **NORTH**

M1 West Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow at junction 47.

M6 Cheshire. Widening work continues between junctions 20 and 22.

M6 Greater Manchester. Roadworks and lane closures between junctions 24 and 26.

M6 Lancashire. Reduced to two lanes in both directions for roadworks between junctions 28 and 29 (Leyland-Bamber Bridge) until today then, between 8pm Saturday and 7am Sunday, the motorway is closed in both directions.

M66 Greater Manchester. Between 6am and 8pm today and tomorrow closed southbound for roadworks between junctions 4 and 5.

A565. Merseyside. Major roadworks in Derby Road, Liverpool between Blackstone Road and Bankhall Street.

● **WALES**

M4 Gwent. Between 24 December and 2 January contraflow in operation through the Brynglas Tunnels, near Newport (between junctions 25 and 26).

A449/A40 Gwent. Roadworks continue between Newport and Monmouth.

*A465 West Glamorgan. Road*works and contraflow at the Glynneath interchange.

A547 Gwynedd. Bridge repairs with temporary traffic lights near the A55 junction at Llandudno Junction.

● **SCOTLAND**

A749 Strathclyde. Dalmarnock Bridge in Glasgow closed southbound for repairs.

M90 Fife. Roadworks and contraflow between junctions 1 and 2.

M90 Tayside. Major roadworks at junction 10 (Friarton Bridge) with lane closures in both directions.

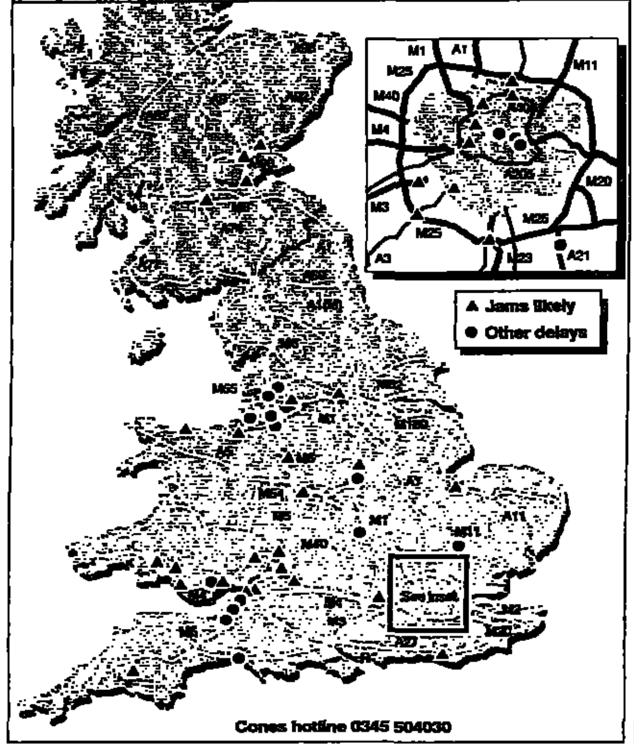
A9 Tayside. Roadworks and lane closures in both directions at Balhaldie.

● **NORTHERN IRELAND**

Co Tyrone Roadworks on the Omagh Bypass at junction with Derry Road.

A6 Co Antrim. Roadworks with temporary traffic lights on Castledawson bypass exit from the Killyneese roundabout at Magherafelt.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



Cones hotline 0345 504030

Helen Mound finds Halfords already preparing for next year's gifts . . .

Stocking up ideas for 1996

With this year's Christmas countdown well underway, the motor accessory trade is busy preparing for next year's rush of seasonal present-buying.

Senior buyers at Halfords are already assessing what the discerning motorist will hope to find in his stocking in December 1996 — a market where they face competition from elsewhere in the High Street.

"We have to look at what other large stores are offering at the cheaper end of the gift market in terms of novelties and useful gadgets," says Steve Reynolds, the company's marketing controller, whose spies have been out combing the shelves of stores such as Marks & Spencer, BhS and Woolworth.

Halfords has six senior buyers covering interior accessories, exterior accessories, car cleaning and winter products, security, child safety and audio equipment. Simon Price, who looks after the car cleaning side, has spent the summer testing products on friends' and colleagues' cars and is now busy devising gift packs, one of the Christmas big-sellers.

The packs, such as winter, car cleaning and emergency kits, cost from £2.99 and sell in vast numbers — up to 1,500 every day in December, more than 50,000 during the whole festive season last year. Motorsport video packs are another popular line, although customers with more money to lavish can buy their loved ones a few real wheelspins with a rally driving course at between £90 and £125.

When it comes to interior trim, seat covers and car mats are the top sellers during the mucky winter months. But sales here hardly compare to those in the car audio market, where buyer Tony Waters sees his figures surge every Christmas. Halfords sells three times as many car stereos in December as in any other month, and the more expensive models, at up to £500, generally prove the most popular. This year demand for security items has seen a steady increase, with customers spending from £8.99 on Krooklocks to £259 on fully-fitted immobilisers and alarms.

Halfords is attempting to shake off the traditionally male appeal of car accessories as gifts. "Most of our gifts are bought by women for men," says Mr Reynolds, so this year's brochure is designed to attract more female shoppers and prominently features bicycles as suitable gifts for all the family. "We wanted something that women would not find too masculine and automotive-led," says Mr Reynolds. The company has also decided to move away from the gimmicky end of the market this year. "Snoopy gadgets are about as frivolous as we get," says Mr Reynolds. Once the festive pandemonium has died down, the buyers get together to discuss their ideas and talk to potential suppliers. By April next year, the motor accessory market will be all set for another Christmas season.

Bright idea for a Christmas gift: a Black and Decker snakelight, *ideal for poking about under the bonnet* £24.99

Left: the Traffic Master, £149.99. Right: Halfords digital tyre pressure gauge, £9.99

Peter Barnard looks at the conflicting messages coming from Whitehall on drinking and driving at Christmas

Drink but don't drink and drive

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

The contract for the Government's Christmas drink-drive campaign this year seems to have been won by Machiavelli, whose core belief was that rulers must be prepared to do bad things if good will come of them. This is the only charitable explanation for the messages coming from Whitehall, though I doubt much good will result.

First, the television campaign urging us not to drink and drive is a disaster. I can see the impact of the images of an adult drunken driver in a vegetative state being fed by his mother, but the script hits entirely the wrong note. These campaigns work best if we can identify with them. Who wants to identify with a weak-willed man in a pub who first refuses a drink, then agrees to half a pint but is persuaded that drinking halves isn't "manly"? Our response is: that isn't me, I wouldn't do that (even if we would).

Past campaigns have worked brilliantly because they showed the effects of drunk-driving without portraying us as weak-willed nincompoops. "Dave", the nincompoop in question, would no doubt thrill to this week's other Government move, the announcement that drinking more alcohol is good for us. What exquisite timing! The sort of bonehead who can be convinced that half pints are not manly has probably misread this news as meaning that he will drive better if he drinks more.

Already, on Radio 4's *Today* programme, wine expert Jancis Robinson had to enter a disclaimer when the interviewer felt that her defence of alcohol might be seen to endorse drink-driving. If intelligent people can confuse the message in this way, I dread to think what society's "Daves" will make of it.

If the Government put up a billboard just before Christmas with the slogan "Drink more, but don't drink and drive" people would think our rulers had finally gone mad. Yet that is the effect of these high-profile developments.

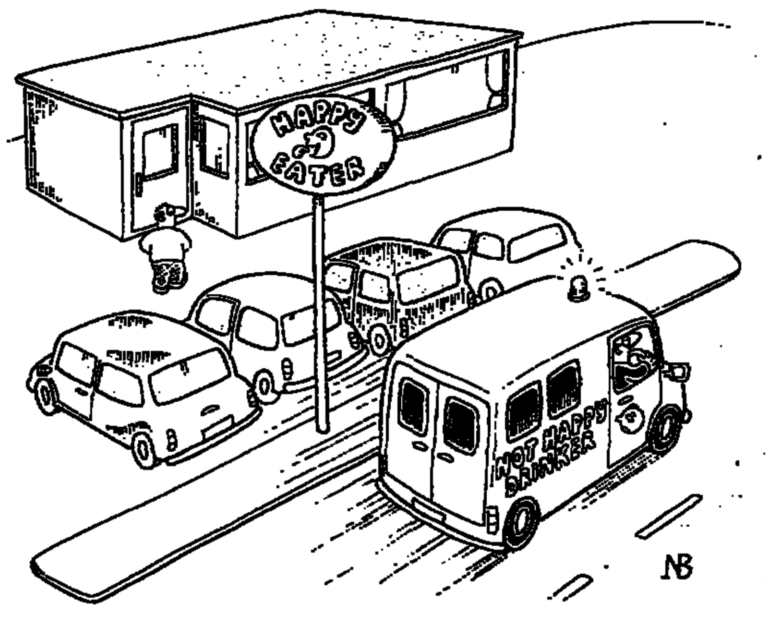
RENT-A-QUOTE is a phrase used by journalists to describe building up a story by telephoning people who can be relied upon to say something controversial. Thus, if a politician says that the sooner we are part of a United States of Europe the better, reporters ring up Bill Cash MP and he will say the opposite. Headline: "Tory split over united Europe". The technique is perfectly legitimate, and certainly not confined to politics. Early this week a dreadful fog descended on most of us and there was the inevitable multiple crash, this one on the M1.

A police officer was brought before the cameras to give drivers a finger-wagging: "They're driving too fast and too close together," he said. And he is very likely correct. Except that I believe there is a further cause of crashes in fog, and the cause is scepticism. Here is what happened when I drove 30 miles along the M4 near my home on the afternoon after the M1 crash.

Between junctions 19 and 16, eastbound, there were half a dozen flashing signs announcing "Fog". Dusk was approaching, but visibili*ty was at least two miles. There was* no fog. There may have been fog further up the motorway, and in the evening it became foggy all along the motorway. But at the time I was passing the warning signs, fog was there none.

Now I know you never know when it will turn up. Therefore the police have a problem knowing when to switch on the warning signs. The trouble is that warning people of a problem that is not visibly existent leads to the warning being ignored.

I know people drive too fast and too close in fog, but a more sophisticated approach to switching on the warning signs would at least remove our scepticism, make us more alert to danger . . . and remove any excuse for irresponsible driving.



Jaguar overtake Ferrari in their Italian backyard

Coventry's leaping cat outruns Modena's prancing horse, **Vaughan Freeman** reports

IN ITALY, passion, motoring and fast cars have naturally meant Ferrari. No longer. Cultural cliches are hard to shatter but Jaguar is doing just that, and Coventry's leaping cat is eating Ferrari's prancing horse for breakfast in its own backyard.

Italian drivers, bracketed forever in motoring mythology as either at the wheel of the classic red sports car, or buzzing along *Italian Job*-style in a traffic-dodging Fiat micro-mini, have rediscovered a new love. It's big, luxurious, very expensive (thanks to Italian tax laws, which penalise cars with engines of more than two litres) and it's British.

This year Jaguar will outsell Ferrari two-to-one in Italy, taking 40 per cent of the luxury saloon market. The Italians will also buy more Jaguars, priced at about £30,000, than BMW 7 Series, Mercedes-Benz S-Class or Porsche models.

Most gratifying of all for Jaguar is that die-hard Ferrari fans, such as Roberto Crepaldi, are among the most ardent admirers. Roberto sold Ferraris for 20 years until he opened his exclusive Jaguar dealership in Milan last year. His father, and his grandfather, a close friend of the legendary Enzo Ferrari, also sold Ferraris.

Why switch? Anglophile Roberto, who has a stunning collection of Norton, Triumph and BSA racing motorcycles from the 1950s and early 1960s, says: "I'm not able to sell something that I do not love. With the death of Mr Ferrari and the changes that followed I felt no longer able to work with them. If you don't put your passion into something, especially a business as crazy as selling luxury cars in Italy, you cannot succeed.

"I am British oriented, and even when I sold Ferraris I had my own Jaguar, although I had to hide it in a corner of the garage under a blanket."

Jaguar owner and Milan businessman Guido Romani, who drives a 3.2 litre XJ6, is back behind the wheel of a Jaguar after a decade's absence. He says: "I had a beautiful XK150. That was a big problem in the summer because the inside of the car got so hot with heat from the engine. I had a Mark II. The brakes on that were not very good so I modified them. And I had a Mark VII. That was OK.

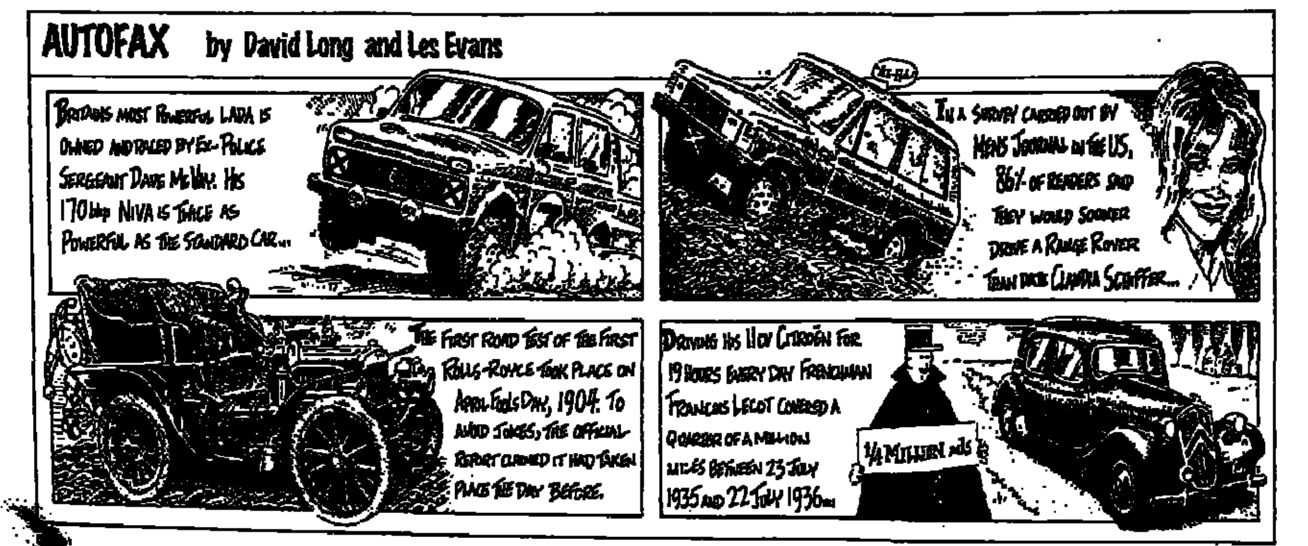
"Now, Jaguar has got it together. The mechanicals and engine are good, and they are real Jaguars again, with the looks, the leather and the beautiful wood. The engine is powerful but without too many revs."

In Italy, only cars under two litres can be set against company expenses, road tax for a car over two litres is, at around £300, more than twice that for sub two-litre vehicles, and petrol costs 80p per litre.

The Italian Government last year ditched its punitive "Imposta Straordinaria", a special tax which put up to £5,000 on the cost of a Jaguar. The marque's sales have more than doubled since, from 493 in 1994 to 1,075 this year.

JON LEWIS, managing director of Jaguar Italia, now believes the only thing standing between Jaguar and higher sales is the tax structure: He says: "We have a car that is extremely competitive. Outside of Italy, probably 80 per cent of our cars are bought for company car use or are driven by professionals for work use. In Italy only 0.4per cent of cars are over two litres compared with 8.6 per cent in Germany and 3.5 per cent in the UK. The tax in Italy is our final battle." This year Jaguar will build a near-record 40,000 cars, and the success story is the same right across continental Europe where sales will this year reach a total of 7,230, rising from 4,633 in 1994.

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans


BRITAIN'S MOST POWERFUL LADA IS OWNED AND RALLIED BY EX-POLICE SERGEANT DAVE McVAY. HIS 170bhp NIVA IS TWICE AS POWERFUL AS THE STANDARD CAR...
YEE-HAA
IN A SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY MEN'S JOURNAL IN THE US, 86% OF READERS SAID THEY WOULD SOONER DRIVE A RANGE ROVER THAN DATE CLAUDIA SCHIFFER...
THE FIRST ROAD TEST OF THE FIRST ROLLS-ROYCE TOOK PLACE ON APRIL FOOLS DAY, 1904. TO AVOID JOKES, THE OFFICIAL REPORT CLAIMED IT HAD TAKEN PLACE THE DAY BEFORE.
DRIVING HIS NEW CITROËN FOR 19 HOURS EVERY DAY FRENCHMAN FRANCOIS LECOT COVERED A QUARTER OF A MILLION MILES BETWEEN 23 JULY 1935 AND 22 JULY 1936...
1/4 MILLION mls

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sellers beware

FRAUDSTERS who prey on motorists in financial difficulties with their hire purchase agreements are back in action, the Finance and Leasing Association warned this week.

The association has alerted the Office of Fair Trading about the re-emergence of vehicle transfer agencies which offer to help motorists who are finding it difficult to keep up repayments by taking over the car, selling or leasing it to another motorist and paying off the outstanding debt.

Research by the association shows that in nine out of ten cases this does not happen and the original buyer is still left with *his debts but no car. Under the law,* the finance company remains the owner of the car throughout an agreement and even those who hand over their cars are still liable to meet the payments.

"The only winners in this scenario are the agencies," says Margaret Waldren, the association's head of motor finance. "Not only have they got the car for free, they also benefit from whatever payments they receive from the person to whom they illegally sold it. Our advice to consumers is to steer clear."

Celebrity sales

TWO LUXURY cars with royal connections were sold at a Sotheby's auction this week. An Aston Martin V8 Vantage Volante, owned by the Prince of Wales, went for £111,500 and the proceeds will help the Prince's Charity Trust to fund new projects. A 1950 Daimler DB18 special sports coupe, ordered by King George VI and owned for many years by Max Bygraves, the entertainer, fetched £56,500.

McLaren at Le Mans

Our feature last week about the McLaren LM and the video of the firm's Le Mans race caused such an outburst of enthusiasm that the company's switchboard was jammed. We will announce the winners of our competition next Saturday. Meantime you can order a copy of the video on 01372 457358 (Fax: 01372 459969), lines open 24-hours, credit cards accepted. Orders received by Monday should arrive by Christmas.

[هذا من الاصل]

هدية من الأهرام

. . . . while **Vaughan Freeman** discovers a range of car-branded presents tailor-made for enthusiasts

Gifts that are up to the marque

Stuck for Uncle Albert's Christmas prezzie? Is the idea of finding just the right gift for Grandma, and getting it to her on time aboard her retirement yacht, simply too daunting?

The answer could lie at your local car dealership. From naff to nice, from 9p balloon to £15,000 sports car replica, almost every car manufacturer now does its own line in merchandised goods. On sale are gifts that were once the sole province of the corporate freebie, emblazoned — grotesquely or discreetly — with the maker's logo.

Such marque-derived merchandise was once only offered by "superior" car firms. Wearing a £2,000 Bugatti jacket says something about you — even if all it says is that you can't afford the car. What wearing a pair of Vauxhall cuff-links says about you is open to debate.

Even so, carmakers who are finding it increasingly hard to make a profit selling vehicles are adding sales of just about anything merchandisable, no matter how distantly linked to the automobile, to their commercial armoury.

If you cannot manage £80,000 for an Aston Martin DB7, then a gift from the Aston Martin Lagonda "boutique collection of accessories" — which features 149 items — might do the trick. You could start at the top with a £15,000 fully driveable 4:7 scale model of the Aston Martin Volante, ideal for a favourite nephew. Or you could try something a little more modest such as the £2.25 history of Aston Martin or a made-to-measure Aston Martin mountain bike for £3,000. Then there are the bone china drinking mugs, the golfing umbrellas or the cashmere teddy bear which, say Aston Martin, "is dressed in pyjamas and dressing gown and which has been created specifically for this new collection".

Aston Martin spokesperson Philippa Kearsley says: "The goods we offer give customers something extra. Selling them is an exercise which reflects the quality of the cars. The quality of our boutique and accessory range, like the bespoke luggage manufactured for us by Swaine Adeney Brigg of London, is renowned."

Not only Aston Martin owners buy the goods says Ms Kearsley. Fans of the marque, be it Aston, Porsche, Ferrari or Jaguar, can at least get a little closer to the cars they admire by owning something, no matter how small or inexpensive, carrying its name, even if the actual car is out of their range.

The Bugatti car firm may be facing financial chaos, but the Bugatti Boutique in London's Beauchamp Place is doing a roaring trade in £2,300 gold watches fashioned in the shape of the Bugatti radiator, £50 ties and £120 scarves. There is also aftershave from £25, polo shirts from £55, and that Bugatti suede jacket, yours for £2,100.

Limoges china and glass, as well as silver cutlery, are all part of the Bugatti collection which, says boutique manageress Jane Lancaster, is as popular with English Bugatti owners as with visitors from Japan and the Middle East.

"Our customers are people who appreciate superior quality goods and also enjoy our beautiful packaging," she says. "The ties, especially, just run out of the door. They are very, very popular as a present, particularly with men, featuring, as they do, Bugatti models or just the classic Bugatti radiator."

Some makers even sell cars. For now the nearest James Bond fans can get to the BMW Z3 car of their action-man hero is to see *GoldenEye*. When the Z3 does arrive next summer the asking price is likely to leave only just enough change out of £20,000 to pay for the popcorn. To cash in on the excitement generated by the film, BMW is selling scale models, in a fetching Atlanta Blue, in time for Christmas.

The stocking-filler sized model Z3s, in 1:18, 1:43 and 1:57 scale, cost £26, £18, and £10 respectively — and you get a picture of Pierce Brosnan.

Also with Christmas in mind, Jaguar has launched a collection of seasonal cards marking Jaguar's 1956 Monte Carlo Rally and the Le Mans 24-hour endurance race victories. The cards are based on classic paintings of Jaguars including the one by Roy Nockold of the winning Monte Carlo Jaguar Mk VII saloon, as well as paintings of the 1951 Le Mans C-Type, 1957 D-Type, Mk II, E-Type and an XK 150.

The widest range of goodies comes from Vauxhall. The dedicated owner can start their Griffin-logo collection with a balloon — in any colour — costing just 9p. Moving up the price range, there is the £1.62 set of playing cards, £24.50 personal organiser, £47.50 golf bag and £76 Sheaffer fountain pen.

Vauxhall's teddy, unlike Aston Martin's, is a mite more car-oriented, available in mechanic's overalls at £6.25. If that doesn't tempt you, there are also ties, cufflinks, belts, watches and scarves, with, as a Vauxhall spokesman explained: "The emphasis on quality and style."

Some of the most coveted car-related items bear the logos of more exotic sports cars, and none is more desirable than those from Porsche. Company spokesman James Pillar says: "We now have a catalogue of 282 items for sale, ranging from £5 T-shirts to fitted luggage costing several hundred pounds.

"The long and short of it is that customers want the stuff. There are all manner of buyers, from Porsche owners to people who simply collect Porsche items."

Porsche have made Santa's job even easier by setting up a free-phone line which, as it is 0345 911911, is both highly relevant and highly memorable. If £150 for the Porsche golf set is too expensive, you can always get the tee pack (including pencil) for £5.

Or, for off-roaders who want a cup of coffee after all their off-roading, there is the £313.61 Land Rover handmade pewter coffee set, including cafetiere, milk jug and sugar bowl, with only a very discreet logo on the base. And computer buffs can enjoy their small screen even more with a Volvo 850 British Touring Car computer mouse mat for £4. Must pop out and get one.

ALAN WELLER

Festive accessories: Bugatti's swish boutique, above, can set you back £2,000 for a suede jacket, but Vauxhall's range starts with a 9p balloon

'A better solution has to be to see cars the same way as freezers. How many children collect toy freezers?'

Continued from page 1

the Big Jake Dump Truck and the Peg Perego Diablo, are in the £200-£500 price bracket. The £59.99 Cozy Coupé, made by Little Tikes for toddlers, is closed, foot-powered and goes from 0 to 3mph in five seconds with nil fuel consumption.

There are no legal restrictions on children driving any of these vehicles. So parents still concerned about an unruly six-year-old's behaviour on the back of 12 volts' worth of power can, from the end of next March, take them to Legoland's pre-teen driving school in Windsor. After being taught the rules of the road by an instructor, about 50 children mount blue, yellow and red Lego cars and fasten their seat belts for a driving test.

On reconstructed roadways in a town setting, children will have to negotiate roundabouts, stop at traffic lights and learn to heed the give way signs. Bad driving or toddler road rage will be halted by a Lego police patrol vehicle. After about 15 minutes, well-behaved and competent drivers will be presented with certificates for 24-volt battery powered cars with a maximum speed of 6mph.

Allowing children to drive early has other benefits. Two thousand children in the eight to 11 age group are killed or seriously injured every year on Britain's roads. Now, instead of drilling the do's and don'ts of the road, the AA and RAC have changed their safety campaigns to consider the child's view of motor vehicles.

Putting a child behind the wheel of a car is one way of giving direct experience of the dangers of driving, and Ted Clements, chief examiner of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, says the earlier children are taught the better: "Youngsters of every age group need to overcome fear of cars, and if we want to improve road safety we have to make them more conscious of the car."

*• **Bullitt Cars** (petrol). Mercedes £3,575.00. Little Foot £4,467.98 plus VAT. (01268 511600). **Little Tikes** (foot). Mini Van £89.99. Grand Coupé £64.99. High street stores. **Ninja Corporation** (battery). Mercedes Rally Truck £494.95. Quad Baywatch £299.95. Samurai Trueno £299.95. Custom Classic motorbike £449.95. Halfords, Jolly Giant, Toys R Us, Hamleys. **Fisher-Price** (battery). Barbie Beach Patrol £250. Kawasaki Ninja £220. Dump Truck £200. (01734 770488). **Mamas and Papas** (battery). Diablo £500. (01484 438 222). **Legoland School**. (0990 626 375).*

Wanted for questioning by the play police

Even toys can't drive round political correctness. **Simon Hacker** reports

A THOUSAND budding boy racers are about to make their driving debut, opposite locking around the Christmas tree and executing handbrake turns under the turkey. Dad is likely to join in, too. From the exhilaration of Scalextric to Matchbox and the shin-cracking Tonka truck, Christmas Day wouldn't be the same without miniature motors in all their un-chipped glory.

But the anti-car lobbyists are homing in. Having urged parents to consider different ways of travelling from A to B, a move is being made to encourage alternative, small-scale transport — or at least turn those pocket mean machines a little greener. Whether it's a car recycling centre or a pedal-powered sports coupé, complete with diesel fuel pump and cones for your very own in-house traffic jam, an uneasy sense of realism is creeping into Santa's sack.

John Marjoram, prospective parliamentary candidate for the Green party in Stroud, Gloucestershire, believes it may not be unreasonable for parents to view the toy car with the same mistrust as the plastic pistol: "It would be a lot more beneficial to give children things to make and be creative with, rather than something ready-made, like a car. If children use Meccano, for instance, they can build cars, but still make them into something else when they get bored with them later."

"We face a problem convincing young people of the existence of other means of transport. Cars still have a glamour to them. Parents face a difficult choice, as they have in the toy gun debate — they had to decide whether to let their children go through with it."

'I'm not sure if the toys are the key problem'

John Stewart, chairman of the anti-roads pressure group Alarm UK, says he grew up playing with toy cars, but now concedes that buying miniature motors could be a bad idea: "I'm not sure if the toys themselves are the key to our problem, it is more the parents' attitude towards the real car outside."

The Environmental Transport Association, however, believes it is only natural for children to want pocket Porsches, Peugeots and Protons. Director Andrew Davis explains: "Sadly, people still think 'I am my car' and children grow up in that understanding — they naturally want to play with things that reflect our society. But if we stop our children playing with cars, then jump in our own, we're giving a conflicting message. A better solution has to be to stop loving cars and see them in the same way as freezers. After all, how many children do you know who collect toy freezers?"

But Nancy Ovens, Scotland's co-ordinator for the International Association for the Child's Right to Play, warns that "play police" can seek to stop children engaging in power games, while offering them no fulfilling alternative. Nascent joyriders, she says, may be more likely to be influenced by the frustration of having little to do than by dreams inspired by playing with Matchbox.

"The argument against toy cars might be the same as it was for guns, which definitely leave no scope for creativity and have connotations of power and violence," she says. "But, since the invention of the wheel, children have wanted to create some sort of mobile transport at play."

Christmas shopping advice from Friends of the Earth is to look for cars that are powered under their own steam. Says spokeswoman Liz Peltz: "If the car is battery-powered, think twice. We advise people to at least try to find models with rechargeable batteries, because they use less energy — and create less waste."

Offering a forecast of Christmases to come, the Patent Office points out that applications for new toy car designs are increasingly environmentally friendly. "Inventions are becoming more responsible with increasing use of safer, biodegradable plastics and lead-free paint," says a spokesman.

High street choices this year show that manufacturers are sensitive to the debate. The Early Learning Centre's best-selling car, the Sports Coupé, costs £39.95 and is now supplied with a set of cones — for the first time making road works possible for Christmas, and not just for life.

"It's a foot-powered convertible that also has a sunroof, squeaky horn and fuel pump, offering diesel and unleaded — so you could say it is environmentally sensitive," says a spokeswoman. "The traffic cones help to teach co-ordinating skills."

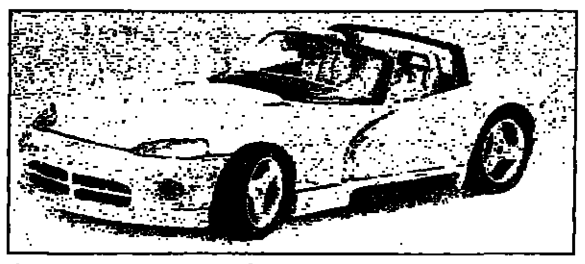
Hamleys Toy Shop anticipates growing popularity for ride-on 4x4s this Christmas. "It may not be so green for children to start their driving experiences so early, but the models are at least battery-powered," says a spokeswoman. "Our most popular sellers, however, are still the big, fast Ferrari and Porsche replicas."

Japanese radio-controlled car specialists Tamiya say their most popular sale this year will be a Mini. Tamiya concedes that the 3175 model is a Cooper — in Monte Carlo Rally spec — but again stresses it is battery-powered.

MEANWHILE, Matchbox's concession to the need for responsible recycling is the Car Crusher. Last year's tatty model is driven in at one end, crushing noises issue forth and out tumbles a tidy block of metal, ready for industry. The Crusher doesn't really crush the car, a spokesman says, but it teaches a valuable message.

Ultimately, however, this debate may be misplaced: Hamleys suspects that the majority of model car sales are for the sort of fully grown boys who read *Car 95* and are not for children at all. After all, toys are a very serious business.

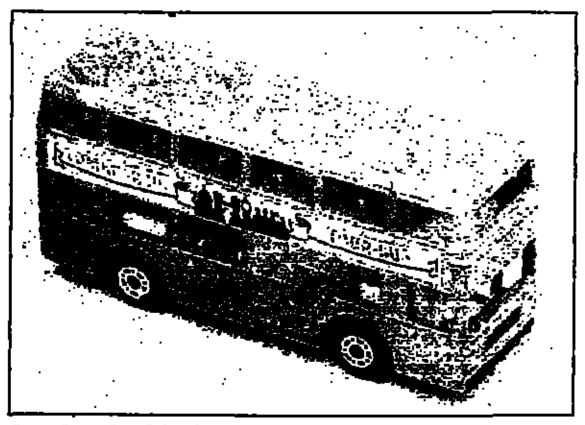
"We face a problem convincing young people of the existence of other means of transport"



Dodge Viper, second favourite of Burrago's models

MOST POPULAR MODELS

MATCHBOX	BURRAGO
1 London bus	1 Ferrari F50
2 London taxi	2 Dodge Viper
3 Jaguar XJ6 police car	3 Mercedes 300 SL
4 Jaguar XJ220	4 Lamborghini Diablo
5 Tailgator	5 E-Type Jaguar
6 VW ambulance	6 Ferrari F40
7 Refuse truck	7 Porsche 911 Carrera
8 BMW 850	8 1936 Mercedes
9 Shovel nose tractor	9 Ferrari 456 GT
10 Snorkel fire engine	10 Bugatti EB110



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95M AUDI 80 AUTO ESTATE Ragusa Leather Climate Control P/S/Roof Cruise Rear Seats S/Lev/Susp Scorpion 5000 H/Seats A/W 6,900MLS ____ £POA

95M AUDI S2 6 SPEED ESTATE Volcano Black E/Recaros Aircon Cruise H/Seats Alarm Performance Brakes S/Suspension S/S/Wheel + Airbag Super Tint Glass [illegible] A/Wheels Total Spec 4,800MLS ____ £POA

95M AUDI 2.6E AUTO CONVERTIBLE Blue Pearl Sapphire Leather Power Hood Aircon Cruise Control A/Check H/Seats H/Locks OBC H/L/W Walnut Airbag 10 Spokes 2,900MLS ____ £POA

95N AUDI A4 2.6SE AUTO Black Jacquard Sports Seats Climate Control P/S/Roof Walnut Traction Control Imo System F/Arm Rest Twin Airbags ABS E/R/Windows R/Locking 60/40 Rear Seat Cassette Rack 16" Polished Alloys 2,900MLS ____ £POA

95M AUDI 2.6E AUTO CONVERTIBLE Crystal Silver Power Hood Leather S/Seats Walnut Airbag ABS Alarm 10Spokes 4,600MLS ____ £26,495

94M AUDI 2.6E AUTO CONVERTIBLE Kingfisher Blue Black Satin S/Seats P/Hood ABS PRO 10 E/Windows x4 EDM COL Alarm 10 Spokes 3,600MLS ____ £24,995

95M AUDI 80 2.6SE AUTO ESTATE Crystal Leather Aircon Cruise E/Sunroof OTG A/Check H/L/W R/Rails Scorpion 5800 6CD 10 Spokes 5,400MLS ____ £24,495

95M AUDI A4 TURBO SPORT Blue Pearl Black Leather S/Seats P/S/Roof Airbags ABS S/Suspension Competition Alloys 4,600MLS ____ £21,995

95M AUDI A4 2.6 Volcano Anthracite Trim P/S/Roof A/Bag ABS ASC Walnut S/Susp Boot Spoiler S/S/Wheel & A/Bag 6CD 17" Alloys 5,600MLS ____ £21,495

94M AUDI A4 1.8SE Blue Pearl S/Seats ABS Climate Control ASC S/S/Wheel A/Bag S/Susp S/Exhaust Alcantara Inlays 6CD [illegible] A/W 8,500MLS ____ £20,495

94L AUDI 2.3E CONVERTIBLE Laser Red Black Hood S/Seats PAS ABS PRO10 EWx4 EDM Scorpion 1000 + INTERFACE 6CD 10Spokes 24,500MLS ____ £19,850

95M AUDI A4 1.8 Crystal Silver Grey Cloth ABS Airbag P/S/Roof E/Windows E/Mirrors Tints A/S/Column Alloys 2,900 MLS ____ £17,995

95M AUDI A4 1.6 Velvet Blue Grey Cloth ABS Airbag EW EDM COL ASC Tints Stereo Alarm 3,900MLS ____ £14,995

94M AUDI 80 2.6E SPORT Brilliant Black ABS PRO10 ESR EW EDM COL Boot Spoiler Tints S/Susp Alarm Alloys 12,600MLS ____ £14,295

94M AUDI A8 2.8 SALOON Emerald Green Anthracite Trim P/S/Roof Airbag E/Windows x4 E/Mirrors Tints Stereo Alarm 22,300MLS ____ £19,995

93L AUDI 80 2.6E ESTATE Crystal Silver Platinum Trim ABS E/Sunroof E/Mirrors Procon 10 C/Locking Alloys 22,600MLS ____ £13,495

91H AUDI 100 2.8E AUTO SALOON Titan Grey Platinum Trim ABS Pro10 E/S/Roof E/Windows x4 EDM COL Tints Stereo 43,900MLS ____ £9,995

Audi at Dovercourt

BATTERSEA

95N 80 2.0 SE ESTATE, Ruby Red, 7,000 miles, Alloy Wheels, CD, E/W
92J 90 2.6E SALOON, Tornado Red, ABS, C/L, Procon Ten, 38,000 miles
94M COUPE 2.6E AUTO, Emerald Green, 23,000 miles, Elec. Sun roof, ABS
94L 100 2.0 SE ESTATE, Lago Blue Met., 5 Speed, 9,000 miles, Alloys, FSH
92K 2.3E CABRIOLET, Black, 26,000 miles, Alloys, FSH
93L 90 TDI ESTATE, Azurite Blue, 32,000 miles, Alloys, S/Roof, E/Windows
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J 318i Brilliant Red. S/r. FSH .. £11,495
D 316i A Black/Anth. Lw mlg. 1 own £7,995
L 318i S Cpe Sterling/Ath. 7T .. £18,795
H 320i SE 4dr Sterling. ESR ... £12,495
D 325i Red/Anth. S/r. C/L Lw mlg . £5,495
M 325 TDS SE Jet Black ... £17,995
M 325 TDS Montreal. ESR ... £18,995

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L 520i SE Granite/Silver Grey .. £15,995
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L&M 525 TDS SE Choice 3 from £16,995
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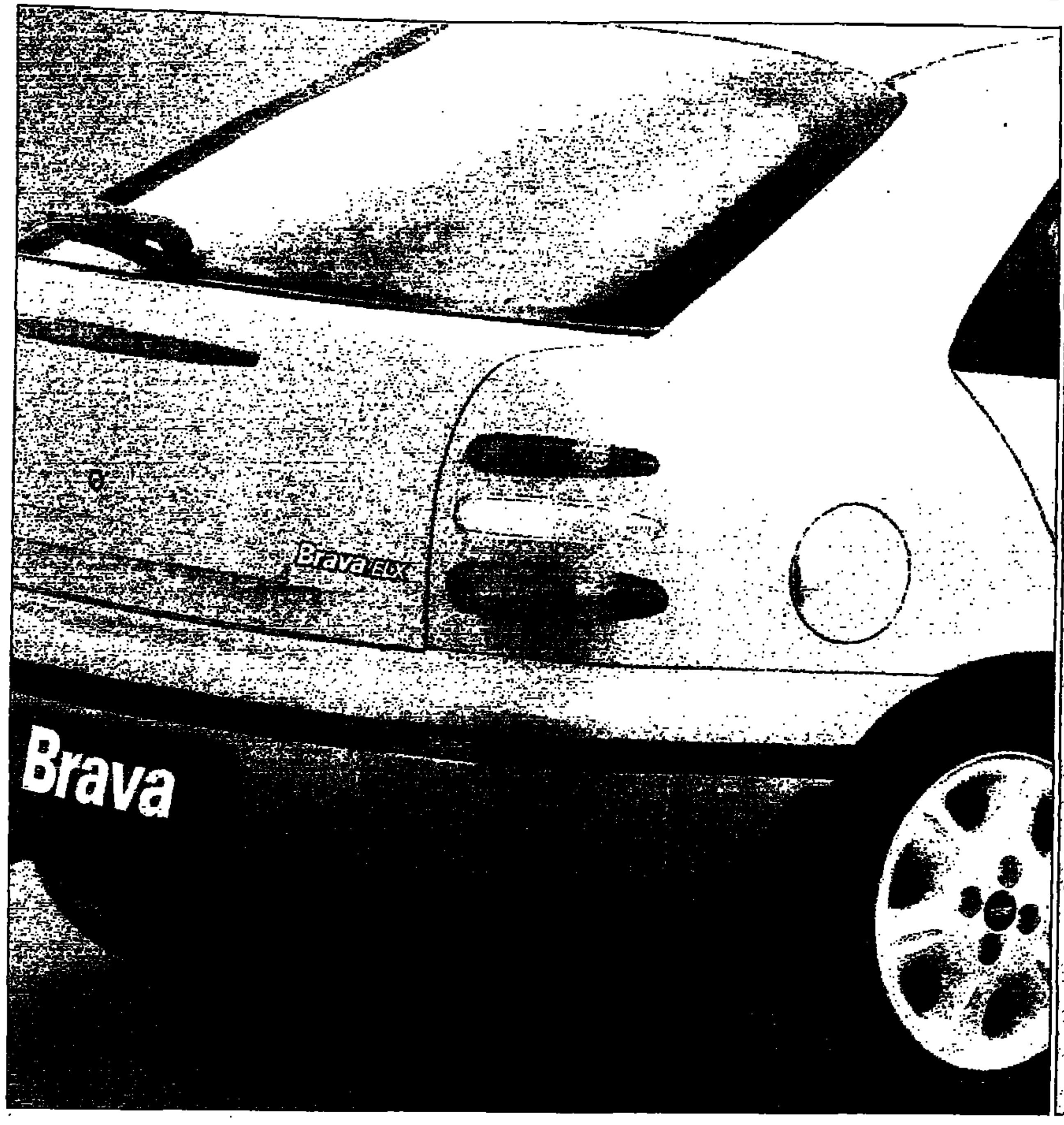
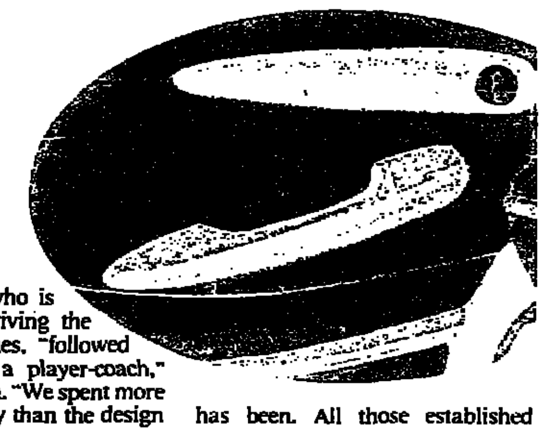
Alan Copps salutes the bravery of Fiat designers who added a touch of sophistication to the Escort class



Car of the Year for Latin lovers

FIAT BRAVA 1.6SX	FIAT BRAVO 1.8HLX
Body style: 5-door hatchback	**Body style**: 3-door hatchback
Engine: four-cylinder, 16-valve, 1581cc giving 103bhp at 5,750rpm	**Engine**: four-cylinder, 16-valve, 1747cc giving 113bhp at 5,800rpm
Performance: Max speed, 112mph; 0-62mph in 11.5secs	**Performance**: max speed 120mph; 0-62mph in 10secs
Economy: Urban cycle, 29.7mpg; constant 56mph, 50.4mpg; constant 75mph, 37.7mpg	**Economy**: Urban cycle 28.8mpg; constant 56mph 48.7mpg; constant 75mph 37.2mpg
Equipment: electric windows and sunroof, six-speaker RDS stereo and split rear seat	**Equipment**: anti-lock brakes, electric mirrors, heated front seats
Price: £11,424.53	**Price**: £12,579.55



What makes a Car of the Year? The Bravo and Brava, Fiat's newly-launched contenders in the most hotly-contested corner of Europe's shrinking private car market, have just been named European Car of the Year only weeks after winning *Autocar*'s design award.

So I approached my first opportunity to drive them with enthusiasm. You don't have to sit behind the wheel to appreciate why these cars should win awards. If you are the one Italian player in the global auto-industry then it makes sense to play a strong style card and after a ropey period a few years back Fiat is now doing that to great effect.

Both these cars have striking looks. They are classed as variants of the same model because both are essentially built around the much-improved platform of their predecessor, the Tipo (itself European car of the year in 1989). But the three-door Bravo has a sporty, hunched look which echoes the company's much-praised Coupé, while the five-door Brava is more fluid, with an arched roof that emphasises its interior space. It is from the rear that these cars are most distinctive: the Bravo's lights are clustered beneath a striking elipse, while the Brava sports three strips which reminded me of horizontal icicles, although the designer's brief says they "are faired like gems and sunk into the bodywork". Both have third brake lights across the back, a feature that will be compulsory on all new cars from 1997 under EC regulations.

Slide into the driving seat and you quickly realise that this concentration on design detail is continued inside. The fascia is smoothly moulded round a central console that houses all heating/ventilation and radio/cassette controls within easy reach and is carved out beneath to give maximum knee room and ease of access. The driver's seat and steering column are both height adjustable in all models and the Brava is very roomy for a car of this size.

The first version I drove was a 1.6-litre Brava SX. Start the engine and there is no mistaking the Italian characteristics. The power is delivered smoothly enough but it is a free-revving unit and wills the driver to use it through the gears. That is easily done because the car handles superbly. The power-assisted steering, again standard on even the most basic model, is light and precise but lacks nothing by way of "feel" and even on a first drive on twisting Scottish roads with a light dusting of snow the car felt surefooted and forgiving of any over-enthusiasm. It's not difficult to be enthusiastic in a car clearly designed to make driving a pleasure.

That pleasure, however, is not gained at the expense of economy. The promised prices for these cars make them highly competitive in the class and despite the high specification, Fiat pursues a ruthless policy of pricing its cars to undercut its main rivals' equivalent versions.

As a family transport the one criticism would be that because it is set up to be fun to drive the ride is a little harder than on some cars of its class and the engine note especially at high revs, although satisfying to the enthusiast, can be intrusive.

In the 1.8-litre Bravo HLX those little snags become virtues. The Bravo is more sporty and aimed at a younger market. In its research Fiat discovered that sales of three-door cars represent 20 per cent of this market and of those buyers 65 per cent are without children. With the larger engine and its deliberately sporty feel this Bravo is great fun to drive.

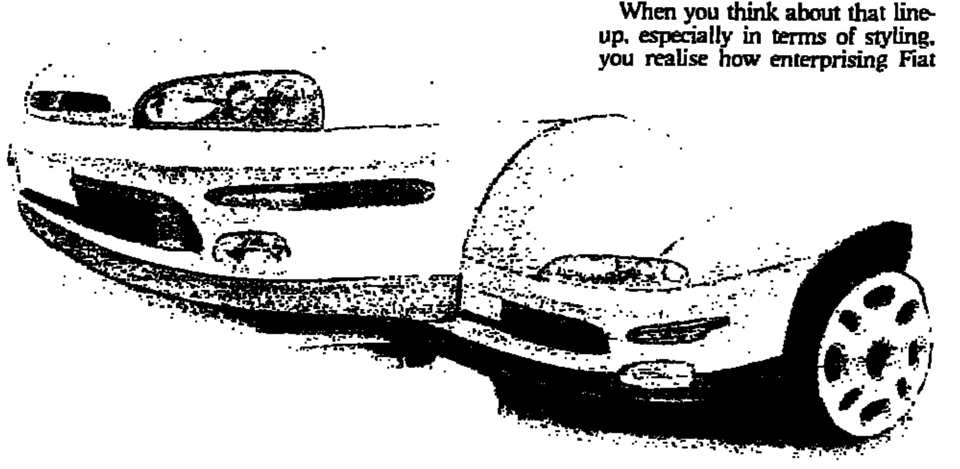
These two cars were developed in Fiat's own styling centre in Turin, principally by a pair of six-foot plus Americans, Pete Davis, head of the centre and chief designer Mike Robinson. Listening to, or rather watching them talk about the cars you realise how rapidly foreigners who live in Italy for any length of time pick up local mannerisms. It's rather like tuning in to a late-night cultural chat show on Italian television, every passionate declaration is accompanied by appropriate gestures.

"I think we should change that saying that 'form follows function' to 'form follows reflections'," says Robinson running his hand over the Brava's flanks with obvious affection. Paolo Cantarella, Fiat's chief executive, who is credited with reviving the company's fortunes, "followed this project like a player-coach," says Mr Robinson. "We spent more time in the factory than the design studio," he recalls. He spent late nights slamming doors in the boss's company until the "clunk" hit just the right tone.

Jim Blades, managing director of Fiat in Britain, is guarded about his sales predictions at a time when the whole market is expected to grow by only 1 per cent, but says that he expects the cars to exceed the Tipo's first-year sales figure of 18,000. The Bravo and Brava compete in what the carmakers know as Segment C, which accounts for 30 per cent of all car sales and is dominated in this country by the Ford Escort, and also includes the Vauxhall Astra, VW Golf, Peugeot 306 and Honda Civic.

When you think about that line-up, especially in terms of styling, you realise how enterprising Fiat has been. All those established models are likely to get a real run for their money from the Fiats and two other new contenders in the segment, Rover's good-looking new 200 and the Renault Megane.

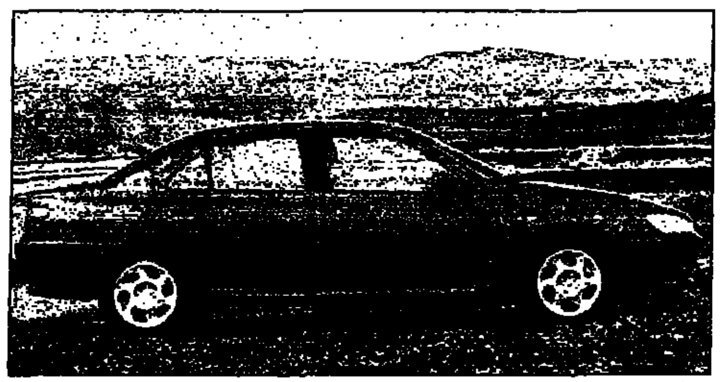
Mr Blades says: "When people buy a three-door car they usually get the same model with two less doors. We are offering them a real choice." The research suggests that a choice is what they want. Three-door cars represent 20 per cent of Segment C sales, which are forecast to total about 600,000 in this country next year. That sub-section is led by the Honda Civic, whilst in the 4 and 5-door sub-sections the Ford Escort leaves its rivals trailing.



I was not the least bit disappointed with my drive in a Car of the Year, although it did leave me wondering about the value of such awards. It is a subject that must have given Fiat some cause for reflection. The company has won the European award seven times, four more than any other company and the Bravo/Brava award made it the first firm to win that title two years in succession. The Punto that won last year has since sold 40,000 in Britain, but that competes in a market segment where Fiat has traditionally been strong. The sales impact of this new award will be worth watching.

Peugeot pushes petrol to parry polluter image

The marque that perfected the diesel is revising its approach, **Kevin Eason** says



Peugeot says half its new 406 models will be petrol powered

PEUGEOT 406

Body style: 4-door saloon
Engine: four-cylinder, 16-valve, 1998cc, giving 135bhp at 5,500rpm
Transmission: five-speed manual, front-wheel drive
Performance: max speed 126mph; 0-62mph, 12.2secs
Economy: urban cycle 25mpg; constant 56mph, 46.3mpg; constant 75mph, 36.7mpg
Equipment: power steering, driver's airbag. Rain sensor on top-of-range models
Price: (estimated) £14,000

Whatever you do, don't mention the "D" word to Dick Parham just at the moment. The managing director of Peugeot in Britain is just a little sensitive to the criticism of diesels as dirty polluters.

But he would be, given that up to 70 per cent of his mainstay models in the most important segment of the market are diesels. Peugeot has sold 330,000 of its 405 model in this country, and 60-70 per cent of those rolled out of the showroom with what is acknowledged to be the best diesel package in the business.

But even the best have to roll with the punches, and Mr Parham expects that with the launch of the 406, the 405's successor, the ratio of diesel to petrol-engined models will fall to 50-50. This is despite the fact that the new turbocharged 1.9-litre and 2-litre power packs will be fitted with catalytic converters and exhaust recirculation systems to make them cleaner than ever.

The petrol cars are going to have to sparkle in a market congested with frantic carmakers all trying to get rid of mid-range, mass-market cars as though they were too hot to handle.

Turn up to any showroom in the country packed to the rafters with Ford Mondeos or Vauxhall Vectras and the sales staff will be so desperate, they will not only give you a discount but probably throw in their bodies if it will clinch them a deal.

In the market for "rep-mobiles", the price of the deal counts for everything, and an extra few pounds off the price sticker could make all the difference.

Does the 406 need to become involved in such frantic horse-trading? Not on merit it doesn't. The 406 lives up to its billing as *Autocar*'s Car Of The Year. It is probably the most pleasing car in its class.

A ride in the 406 underlines where Peugeot's competitors have missed out with their own new models. Ford and Vauxhall might have high-specification packages and the best prices, but both produced new cars that look so bland that they would not even win a "not very interesting" contest. Rover's 600 range has good looks but falls down on high prices and low specifications.

With the 406, you get the lot. Mr Parham says the 406 will be aimed squarely at the competition on price when it is launched on February 2 next year. The price will include driver and passenger airbags, power steering, a height-and-reach-adjustable steering wheel, electric front windows and a third rear-screen brake light, all as standard.

Put that little lot to one side for a moment, however, and visualise walking into a crowded car park: the wall-to-wall cars all look like clones ... except for the 406, which is as distinctive as you could get in this class.

Peugeot have had the courage to keep the dimensions large, so the 406 at 4.55 metres has about 7cm on the Mondeo and the Vectra, and it shows because the interior feels cavernous for a car in this class, much more like an executive car than the standard knees-in-the-chest, bolt upright, cramped conditions of most mid-rangers.

In the 406, you can sit back and enjoy one of the best rides in the class, a smooth, comforting waft. If there has to be a criticism, it is of the fascia, where the switches look a little cheap and flimsy and the radio — in spite of having steering column controls — is still set too low for ease of operating.

There will be two turbo-diesels ready for February 2 and two petrol models. The base 1.9 litre diesel will have a 110mph top speed but a fuel consumption figure for town driving of 36.7 miles to the gallon, while the "peppier" 2 litre will sprint quicker and get to 118mph, yet still return 35.3mpg in the sort of stop-start town driving that most "reps" and businessmen and women have to do daily.

Whatever the arguments about the cleanliness of diesel, consumption is an irrefutable argument in the 406 range — for the equivalent petrol-driven cars return much lower fuel consumption figures. The 1.8 litre returns 27.2mpg on the urban cycle, and the 2 litre — which I drove around the West Country this week — only 25mpg; yet neither car is significantly quicker through the gears or better accelerating than the 2-litre diesel.

Companies and retail buyers will pay their money and take their choice, although I suspect that anyone who drives the 2-litre petrol version will find it so smooth and relaxing that they might be willing to pay the penalty of the odd few gallons extra.

And I believe that this car could better the official fuel consumption figures in the hands of a driver prepared to enjoy the 406, rather than trying to thrash it. There is simply no need because the joy of the 406 is in its "big car" feel, its effortless performance and its supple cruise over every road surface. I guess that is why it is one of the cars of the year.

SOME RIVALS

The main competitors for the Brava include:

Ford Escort 1.6Lx
Max speed 109mph, 0-60 mph in 12.1 seconds, 29mpg overall, 45mpg touring. Price: £11,995

Vauxhall Astra 1.6i GLS
Max speed 113mph, 0-60mph in 10.5 seconds, 30mpg overall, 40mpg touring. Price: £13,095

Peugeot 306 1.6i Sedan
Max speed 112mph, 0-60mph in 11.5 seconds, 28mpg overall, 36mpg touring. Price £11,865

For the Bravo:

New Rover 200vi
Max speed 127mph, 0-60mph in 7.5 seconds, Urban cycle 30.1mpg, average 39.6mpg. Price £15,000.

VW Golf 1.8 driver
Max speed 107mph, 0-60mph in 12.7 seconds, 32mpg overall, 36mpg touring. Price: £12,774

Citroen ZX Furio 1.8i
Max speed 112mph, 0-60mph in 10.7 seconds, 27mpg overall, 37mpg touring. Price: £12,315

Figures supplied by *Autocar*, except for Rover

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90G	500SL Hide, AC, ABS, ASR, E.M.Seats, Cruise, Alloys, Stereo	24,000	£46,995
93K	300SL 24V LHD Hide, AC, A.Bags, E.H.Seats, R.Seats, Stereo	15,000	£44,995
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92J	500SEL Climate, E.S.Roof, E.Seats, A.Bag, E.R.Seats, 91 Reg	29,000	£41,995
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95N	S320 Saloon Hide, Climate, Auto 5 Spd, E.Seats, E.S.Roof, Alls	1,000	£52,995
95M	E320 Cab Hide, A.Bags, AC, E.Seats, H.F.Trim, Kit, Alloys	3,000	£51,995
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93L	E320 Coupe, Hide, 5Sp Auto, AC, A.Bag, ESR, Alloys, Stereo	10,000	£35,995
95M	E36 AMG Estate, 272 BHP, 14 Factory Fitted Extras, Very Rare	7,000	£51,995
95M	E320 Est 5 Spd Auto, AC, E.S.Roof, A.Bags, E.D.Seat, R.Seats	10,000	£39,995
93K	320CE Hide, AC, E.D.Seat, CC, E.S.R., A.Bag, S.Ens, 92 Reg	18,000	£33,995
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PORSCHE .... *All high quality cars purchased*

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94L	325i Auto Coupe PAS, ABS, AC, Alloys, A.Bag, Stereo, 93 Reg	10,000	£19,995
95M	318i Auto S Coupe AC, E.S.R., A.Bag, V. High Specification	18,000	£19,995
92J	318i Auto Touring PAS, E.S.Roof, E.Windows, Stereo	24,000	£10,995

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91J	JAGUAR XJS V12 Coupe, LE MANS No 209, Limited Edition 16,000	£19,995
95M	LEXUS LS 400 New Mdl, Hide, A/B, A.C, ESR, E.H.Sts, Alloys 8,000	£38,995
91H	LEXUS LS 400 Hide, AC, E.S.Roof, ABS, E.Seats, Alloys, CD 36,000	£19,995
96 M	RANGE ROVER 4.6 HSE Hide, AC, A.Bags, 18" Alloys, 95 Reg 4,000	£42,995
95M	RANGE ROVER 4.6 HSE Hide, AC, A.Bags, E.S.Roof, E.Seats, CD 8,000	£39,995
95M	JEEP CHEROKEE 4.0 Ltd SE Hide, AC, A.Bag, E.Seats, 94 Reg 8,000	£20,995
95M	MAZDA MX5 1.8i S Convertible AC, Hard Top, ABS, Alarm 6,000	£18,995
94L	VW Corrado VR6 2.9 Coupe, 5 Speed, PAS, E.S.Roof, ABS 30,000	£16,495

هكذا من الأصل

CAR 95

DR DASHBOARD

Is this the end of Murray Walker?

Q Why on Earth has ITV paid £60 million for the rights to cover grand prix racing? I thought Formula One's appeal was fading.

A Not so fast, if you take my meaning. This year's British Grand Prix was watched by an estimated 600 million people around the world. The trackside audience at Silverstone was a mere 90,000. Each of the other 16 races last season attracted similar figures.

Q But I remember reading that sponsors were getting disenchanted because the whole thing had become a boring procession.

A It's true that at the beginning of last season people were complaining that most tracks present precious little opportunity for overtaking at current speeds. There were also fears that the death of Ayrton Senna in 1994 would put a blight on the whole Formula One scene. Its reputation suffered even more through that row over irregular fuel in the very first race in Brazil.

Q What happened to change people's minds and make the rights worth so much?

A Well it was hardly a boring season was it? Cast your mind back to Silverstone and that little shunt between Damon Hill and Michael Schumacher, or that other glancing blow at Monza, or that tussle at the Nurburgring or all that gardening Damon did in Japan.

Q It must be the most expensive sport in the world. Does £60 million really make that much difference?

A Frankly no. Last year the Williams-Renault team is estimated to have spent well in excess of £20 million even before it paid any wages to Damon Hill and David Coulthard. Michael Schumacher is reported to be getting £18 million from Ferrari. Humbler teams manage to get by on a mere £10 million or so a season but then their drivers don't get paid: they must bring their own sponsorship or pay for their drive!

Q It all sounds a bit profligate. Where does the money go?

A Well, one lap of Silverstone is estimated to cost about £15,000 for a leading team. A chassis costs £500,000, an engine more than £100,000 (a team might get through anything up to 20 in a season), a set of tyres costs £1,200 and a team will use up to £25,000-worth in a race weekend. Get the picture?

Q I see. So who gets the money from this TV deal?

A The ITV contract is with the Formula One Constructors' Association. It is responsible for shipping the whole circus round the globe from race to race. Its president, Bernie Ecclestone, told *CAR 95* earlier this year: "In Formula One a second quicker costs extra. Even two-tenths of a second is expensive. It's cheap to go slow, but quick is a bit more pricey."

Q Does this sort of deal bring any benefit to the slower teams?

A It is difficult to see how. The teams that finish in the top ten of the constructors' championship in one season get their transport bill footed by FOCA the next year. If you're out of that league you have to pay your own way and that might add another £2 million.

Q The economics of all this seem baffling. What does a sponsor get from having his name on the side of a car that never gets anywhere near a place?

A The pay-off for the backmarker's sponsor is a subject of some discussion among Formula One folk at the moment. Take the example of Pedro Diniz, whose Forti was easily the slowest car last season, often being lapped four or five times by the likes of Schumacher and Hill. The chances are the cameras focused on his car every time one of the race leaders went past, a fantastic amount of airtime for a sponsor for a relatively modest outlay. Viewers will have seen far more of Pedro and his Forti than of many a better driver pootling around uneventfully in midfield and not being lapped so often!

Q Funny business. Does ITV's deal mean the end of dear old Murray Walker?

A Watch this space. It wouldn't be the same without him, would it? And the new deal doesn't start until 1997, so there's still a whole year left to catch the man who once said: "And now excuse me while I interrupt myself."

'Forget breakfast. Take a travel sickness pill . . . even sips of soda water.' **Sandy Bisp** puts herself on the skids

On the slippery road to saving your life

Few make an impact at Castle Combe skid pan like Milton and Yvonne. Recalling them, instructor Jamie Boots becomes rapt and needs no coaxing to tell the story of two senior citizens out for three hours' serious sideways driving.

"I watched an elderly lady get into a car and take off," he says. "The way she lifted off the back end, giving it a bit of power [here his expression is sublime] . . . was beautiful." And Milton? "Oh, Milton had the Cortina on full lock and kept it there. Those two were driving really hard."

Not your average seekers after skid-handling wisdom, but Milton and Yvonne would seem to endorse Castle Combe's claim that anyone from 18 to 80 can get a lot out of having a go on the slides.

A house move and fear of winter driving on unfamiliar roads led me to the brink of a skid pan for the first time. Having had my share of lucky escapes, I believe those who say the course saved their bacon and my one regret is not having tried to learn skid control earlier.

Jamie Boots, deadly serious this time, affirms: "One lady brought her daughter recently after she'd avoided a disastrous accident using the techniques we taught her."

Candidates for the skid pan the morning I looped the loop tended to be average motorists for whom the prospect of a dent in a no claims bonus holds as much terror as anything. Sometimes drivers on the £49.50 three-hour course are too nervous to try out the skid pan immediately, opting to watch. It's understandable after a judicial scattering of non-toxic crystals, hosed down for varying degrees of slipperiness, the concrete surface resembles a black stretch of oiled canal.

Eight of us — course numbers are kept to a maximum of 12 — took turns as drivers and passengers in two cars bearing skid pan logos: a Rover offered front-wheel-drive skids while a Cortina demonstrated rear wheel slides. They call for different remedial tactics but, before learning to tackle either vehicle in dangerous mood, we experienced how it feels when any car skids out of control. Braking, one hardly need say, should be avoided.

Braking, one hardly need say, should be avoided

As a rear passenger in the Rover driven by another woman on the course, the second we slewed off my stomach sought sanctuary high in my rib cage. To potential skidders I'd say: "Forget breakfast. Take a travel sickness pill . . . even sips of soda water from a hip flask."

When it was my turn to turn everyone else green, I discovered how, in second gear and while a speedo says no more than 15mph, a vehicle's wheels go their own way closer to 40mph. Flailing at the steering wheel, nascent skid rage can let loose expletives.

There is nothing to fear from the figure-of-eight course defined by tyre-ringed cones over an area roughly the size of three tennis courts at Castle Combe, adjacent to the Wiltshire motor racing circuit. Ploughing into the light cones is no problem with ample skidding space, plus a dry area bounded by earth banks, beyond.

Principles of front and rear wheel skid-handling are explained simply, without technical hokum, over coffee in a hexagonal observation area and applying them while in a state of perpetual motion really does become easier with practice.

Jamie Boots says: "You may not get away with hitting black ice on a bend, but you can learn how to reduce speed and take evasive action. Would you rather hit a tree head-on, or clip it?"

Knowing whether the weapon in your hands is a front or rear-wheel-drive vehicle is a prerequisite to taking the right counter measures. Steering into a skid is correct, but an automatic reflex. Learning how much, or rather how little, to turn the steering wheel is crucial. In the Rover, I learnt lessons to apply in my front-wheel-drive Peugeot, namely to come off the power and turn the wheel marginally in the right direction, thus giving the drive wheels a chance to slow down and grip.

"Turn the steering wheel no more than you'd tuck your head to see round a bend as you're driving," Jamie says.

Rear wheel sliding in the hard-to-handle Cortina had to be tackled pushing in the clutch while again steering into the skid. Later I learnt the tyre pressures had been "adjusted" to 40lbs in the front and 20lbs in the rear, to demonstrate how vital correct pressures are. "Five Pounds" wrong pressure [when travelling] at 70 miles an hour on a motorway can produce the same effects experienced in the Cortina," said Jamie.

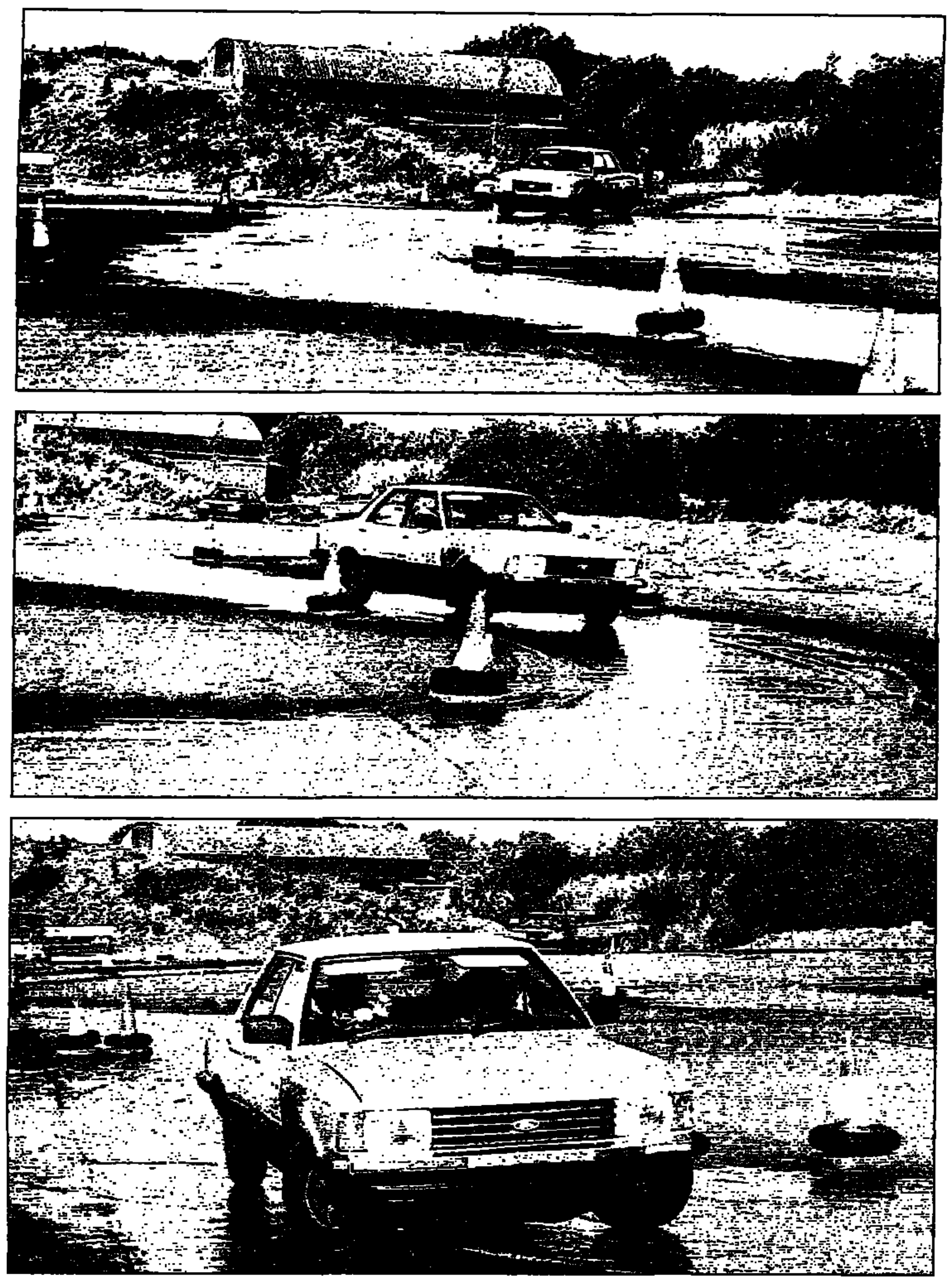
At Castle Combe I also learnt cadence braking, seldom taught elsewhere. Driving straight towards two cones wearing up-ended wellies to signify a pedestrian in the road, first I learnt how not to react. Braking hard, frantically twisting the steering wheel, made control impossible. But hitting the brake, immediately coming off it then steering fractionally to the right before braking once again worked brilliantly, averting a potentially lethal skid.

On jelly legs after timed trials and a stop-watch presentation to the winner, I asked Jamie how he rated me.

"Fine," he lied, clearly yearning for Yvonne. Oh, all right, and Milton.

Skid pan courses at £49.50 — gift vouchers available — are held every weekend at Castle Combe Circuit, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 7EX. 01249 782101.

The Institute of Advanced Motorists also recommends the following skid pans: Driving Management Ltd for Thruxton Motor Circuit, near Andover, Hants and Midlands Skid Pan, Fradley, near Lichfield, Staffordshire (01264 771074); Silverstone Driving School, Silverstone Circuit, near Towcester, Northamptonshire (01327-857177); City of Manchester Road Safety Unit (0161 234 4480); Lancashire County Council Road Safety Office (01772 264472); Motor Racing Stables, Brands Hatch, Kent (01474 872367); Jonathan Tait Skid Control School, Donington Park, Derby (01332 811430).



The Castle Combe track resembles a black stretch of oiled canal, but anyone can get a lot from the slides

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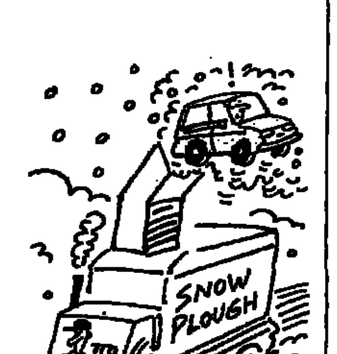
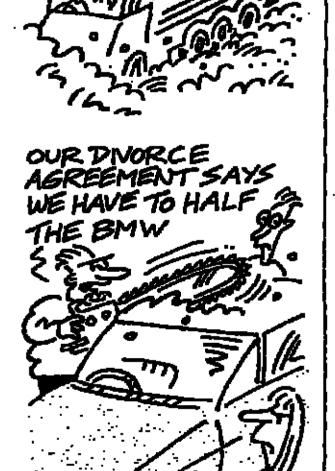
CAR TOONS




OUR DIVORCE AGREEMENT SAYS WE HAVE TO HALF THE BMW

IT'S THE LAST TIME YOU BUY ANYTHING FROM A BLOKE IN A PUB!
Haldane

Disabled drivers face a further handicap when they want motor insurance, says **Michael Turner**

Policies with penalties of prejudice

Finding the right car insurance at the right price is a tough task for many drivers, but disabled drivers face a particularly difficult job as many companies refuse to provide cover and others substantially load their premiums.

Sylvia Alman had been driving for 21 years when she was diagnosed as having multiple sclerosis in 1991. She says: "Having MS doesn't affect my driving, and my doctor and specialist had said there was no reason I should not drive."

However, when she went to renew her insurance and declared her disability she was told it would not be possible to arrange cover. Miss Alman went on to try several other high street insurers, but found that they all loaded her premium. One company asked for double the rate that she had been paying.

The findings of a survey of motor insurers by the Research Institute for Consumer Affairs (Rica) shows that Miss Alman's experiences remain far from uncommon. When it surveyed 48 insurance companies late last year, it found only 12 that do not load premiums for disabled drivers. The remainder weighted rates for disabled drivers by up to 50 per cent.

The way companies responded varied according to the nature of the disability they were dealing with. All would cover people with arthritis, but about a quarter could not insure people who have had strokes or developed multiple sclerosis.

"We were surprised that so many companies discriminate against disabled drivers," comments David Yelding, director of Rica. "Especially with the imminence of the Government's Disability Discrimination Bill."

This new law will require all providers of goods and services to justify treating disabled customers differently from able-bodied people. When it comes into effect next year, insurers will no longer be able to load premiums for disabled drivers unless they can prove that a higher risk is involved.

Sylvia Alman is at a loss to explain why the insurance companies wanted to treat her differently because of her disability and Rica's research shows the companies themselves are unable to justify their treatment of disabled drivers.

It contacted all the companies that loaded premiums and asked for proof of the higher risk involved. Only one said that it had such evidence, but refused to reveal it, saying that it was "commercially confidential". The Association of British Insurers and Institute of Actuaries also failed to produce any proof of higher risk, and said that the issue is one for insurance companies themselves to deal with.

"Our conclusion is that there is no evidence," says Mr Yelding. "It is just that insurance companies do not know enough about disability."

Sylvia Alman eventually took out insurance with Eagle Star Direct after seeing an advertisement in a magazine for disabled people. "They said they didn't need to know anything about my disability and my premium came down by £150."

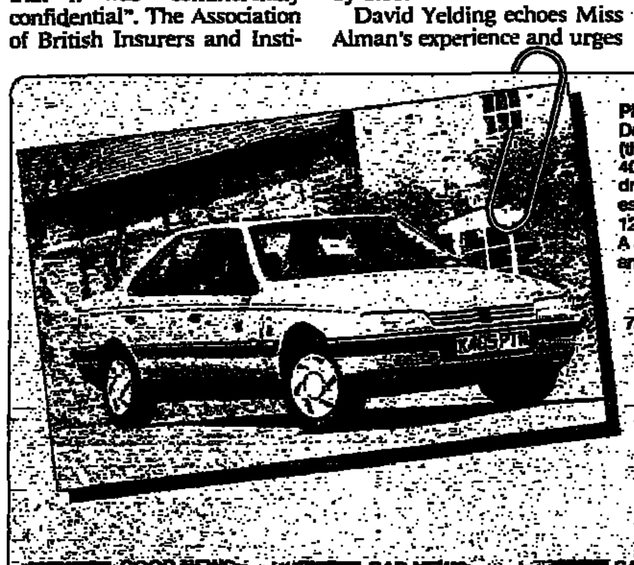
David Yelding echoes Miss Alman's experience and urges disabled people to "shop around — an afternoon on the phone can save you as much as £500". The results of Rica's survey are available in a short guide that will help disabled drivers to identify the best companies to approach. Mr Yelding believes that by shopping around people will also help to open up the insurance market and says that the more disabled people look around for quotes the more competitive the market will become.

Market forces seem as likely to improve the situation as the new legislation. Mr Yelding is doubtful about the impact of the Disability Discrimination Bill, saying it lacks adequate means for enforcement. Rica will be monitoring the situation and plans to repeat its survey once the new law has had time to take effect.

Mr Yelding believes that many insurers are taking a positive stance on the issue, and says he had a clear impression that some would be reconsidering their treatment of disabled drivers following contact Rica.

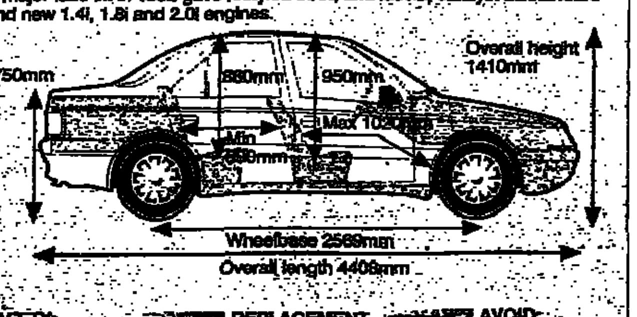
RICA's guide is available for £1 from Which? Ltd, PO Box 44 Hertford, Herts SG14 1SH. Tel: 01992 822820.

USED CAR BRIEF



PEUGEOT 405

Despite the French feel and Pininfarina styling the 405 four-door saloon (there was no five-door hatch) was built at Peugeot's Coventry plant. The 405 won many advocates on the strength of its looks and much-vaunted driving pleasure. Introduced in 1988, the 405-later joined by French-built estates-arrived in 1.6-litre 92bhp petrol, 1.9-litre petrol (110bhp and 125bhp), and 1.9-litre 70bhp diesel. Four-wheel drive GLx4 arrived in 1989. A major face-lift in 1992 gave restyled boot, and fascia, catalyst as standard and new 1.4i, 1.8i and 2.0i engines.



GOOD NEWS: A car that looks good, especially next to the main company car rival Sierras and Cavaliers of the time. Capacious boot, excellent handling and ride, plus responsive and accurate power steering made the 405 a favourite among the fleet drivers it was aimed at.

BAD NEWS: Engines tend to smoke and like oil. Clutch action can be heavy (new clutch cable may fix this), speedometers erratic, electrics such as sunroof motors and rear window heating elements temperamental, while boot prone to water leaks.

SAFETY: The 405 does well in the Department of Transport safety ratings, ahead of most cars in its upper medium section. Rated on a par with the Volvo 400, Mercedes 190 and BMW 3 Series.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (Prices include VAT) clutch assembly £115; full exhaust £425; rear shock absorber £55; front shock absorber £50; front brake pads £40; alternator (exchange) £130; starter motor £125; tyre £45-65.

AVOID: Cars without power steering, especially diesels. Newer, high mileage examples likely to suffer tatty interior trim, and oil leaks around fuel-pump and dipstick. Early carburettor cars suffer erratic cold starts and idle, plus heavy fuel consumption.

INSURANCE: cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1993 L-reg Peugeot 405 1.8i GLX, costs a 55-year-old male professional living in Winchester, with full no claims bonus, £138 a year fully comprehensive. A similar female pays £149. A 22-year-old male with one year no claims living in south London pays £802, and a similar female pays £663.

PRICES: expect to pay £2,100 for a 1988 E-reg GE 1.6, £5,900 for a 1992 K-reg GRi with catalyst, £3,800 for a 1990 H-reg 1.9 GL, £5,100 for a 1991 J-reg 1.9i GLx4 four-wheel drive, £8,250 for a 1994 L-reg 1.6i GLX, and £6,800 for a 1992 K-reg 1.8i GL estate.

LOOK FOR: More recent, but low mileage, fuel injected and catalysed models for better fuel consumption and reliability, especially in the cold. Check diesel engined cars have had recommended 6,000 mile oil-changes, and on all models that heater fan and central locking works.

OVERALL: There are niggles with the 405, like the spare wheel slung underneath the car which can prove impossible to use if it rusts with road grime. Overall the 405 is a highly-rated Cavalier competitor, particularly late model 1.6i carburetted models, and diesels. Powerful 2.0i, 134mph, Mi16s is a shrewd alternative to a Cosworth for sheepskin-clad wolfish driving.

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50 CARS FROM £10,000 TO £15,000

MODEL	PRICE		
	Nov-95	Dec-95	Chge
Rover 820 Si 4dr	12150	12095	-0.45
Nissan Patrol GR SLX 5dr	14950	14450	-3.34
Honda Accord 2.0i LS 4dr	12495	12250	-1.96
Mazda 626 2.0 GLX 5dr	11495	10995	-4.34
Volvo 480 2.0 ES 3dr	11295	11150	-1.28
Vauxhall Cavalier 2.0 SRi 16V 5dr	10295	10850	5.39
Ford Mondeo 2.0 Si 4dr	10100	10095	-0.04
Renault Clio 16V 3dr	10295	10095	-1.94
Citroën Xantia 2.0 VSX 5dr	10695	10350	-3.22
Chrysler Wrangler 4.0 2dr	12395	11995	-3.22
Subaru Legacy 2.0 GL estate	11550	11295	-2.20
Saab 900 2.0i S 5dr	14295	13950	-2.41
Renault Espace 2.0 RN 5dr	14250	14095	-1.08
Peugeot 405 1.9 GRD estate	11295	10195	-9.73
Nissan 200 SX 3dr	13495	13295	-1.48
Toyota Carina E Executive 5dr	11595	11595	0.00
Suzuki Vitari JLX SE 3dr	10495	10395	-0.95
Mitsubishi Galant 2.0 GLSi Auto	12250	11650	-4.89
Hyundai Sonata 2.0 CDi 4dr	11250	10650	-5.33
Ford Granada 2.0 Ghia Auto 4dr	12795	12350	-3.47
Audi 80 1.6 4dr	11395	11150	-2.15
Volvo 940 2.0 Wentworth 4dr	14495	14450	-0.31
Vauxhall Cavalier V6 Diplomat 5dr	12450	13150	5.62
Rover 620 Si 4dr	12095	11550	-4.50
Renault Safrane 2.0 RN 5dr	12095	11650	-3.67
Peugeot 605 SLi 4dr	11850	11550	-2.53
Nissan Serena 2.0 SLX 7st. estate	12850	12195	-5.97
Audi 80 2.0 E 4dr	12950	12750	-1.54
Citroën 2.0 ZX 16V 3dr	10095	10095	0.00
Daihatsu Sportrak ELXi 3dr	10950	11095	1.32
Ford Escort RS 2000 3dr	11295	11495	1.77
Honda Civic LSi Coupe 2dr	10450	10150	-2.87
Mitsubishi Lancer V6 24V 4dr	12195	11895	-2.46
Peugeot 306 XSi 5dr	10595	10395	-1.88
Toyota Corolla 1.6 Executive 5dr	11095	10950	-1.30
Vauxhall Astra 2.0i Convertible	11095	11195	0.90
Volkswagen Passat 2.0 GL 4dr	11450	11250	-1.74
Mazda 323 1.8i GT (ABS)	11095	11095	0.00
Renault 19 16V 3dr	10395	10195	-1.92
Subaru Impreza 1.8 GI estate	10450	10250	-1.91
Vauxhall Calibra 16V 3dr	13650	13550	-0.73
Vauxhall Omega 2.0 16V CD Auto 4dr	14495	14195	-2.06
Citroën XM 2.0i 16V Turbo estate	14295	14150	-1.01
Daihatsu Fourtrak TDL 3dr	13595	13150	-3.27
Ford Escort 1.8 Si Cabriolet	11450	11150	-2.62
Honda Accord 2.0i LS Coupe 2dr	13495	13295	-1.48
Audi 100 2.0 E 4dr	13850	13395	-3.28
Mazda Xedos 6 1.6i 4dr	12750	12695	-0.43
Mitsubishi V6 24V Coupe 5dr	14395	13995	-2.77
Rover 216 Cabriolet 2dr	11750	11895	-1.23

CAP MOTOR RESEARCH LTD

*Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecourt prices. HB = hatchback S = saloon. Price changes based on M-reg, low mileage cars. Figures supplied by **CAP Motor Research**.*

THIRTY young drivers from around Europe will be competing in Brussels on January 14 in the finals of the "Say YES to Safer Driving" campaign. The campaign has been running throughout the EU for the last three months under the sponsorship of the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association.

The contest was created to mark 1995 as the European Year of the Young Driver and two finalists have been selected from each of the 15 countries of the European Union. There are 30 million drivers aged under 25 in the EU — and each year 13,000 of them become road casualties.

Those who will be competing had to prove their road safety knowledge, skill, judgment and responses in national heats using a new Porsche. Their skills in the final will be assessed with the assistance of rally driver Timo Makkinen. They stand a chance of winning a 10-day holiday for two or an advanced driving course at Salzburg in Austria.

Vaughan Freeman on Skoda's VW-influenced Felicia

The Felicia: at under £8,000, the price range ends where most others have yet to begin

No jokes, £1bn is serious money for the Germans

Admittedly, my Australian neighbour was feeling a bit full of himself after his country's rugby league success at England's expense, but the Skoda image-makers would have cringed as he stopped to look at the Felicia, and threw off the gratuitous insult: "Bit of a comedown, isn't it?"

Bearing in mind that my other car is a 14-year-old rusting wreck, Volkswagen, which now owns Skoda, might justifiably feel peeved. VW has pumped more than £1 billion into the Czech car firm since 1991, and has tried desperately to bury the old joke image.

This might have failed with the Australians, but among Britons more headway is being made. Last year Skoda sales topped 12,000, almost 40 per cent up on 1993, and they are up about 10 per cent so far in 1995.

Skoda's latest model is the Felicia, a car which has clearly benefited from the German influence. More direct help comes next year when the first Skodas to be fitted with VW engines arrive, probably in January, with the 1.6-litre coming first, followed in the summer by the 1.9-litre VW diesel currently used in the Polo.

The Felicia still uses a Skoda engine and, despite the VW hype, must be judged on what it does now rather than what it plans to do. It must also be judged on its price. The 1.3-litre 68bhp petrol engine is certainly willing, acceleration is crisp and probably feels faster than it is; top speed is well up to motorway limits and beyond. It is, however, a noisy, intrusive unit, crude and clattery when compared to, say, Ford's 1.25-litre engine in the new Fiesta.

The other main problem is that the absence of power steering makes the Felicia heavy to handle, especially if you are trying to heave it out of a parking slot on a steeply cambered gutter or a hill.

Even so, with a price range which starts at £6,175 for the 1.3LX and halts where most ranges have yet to begin at under £8,000, the Felicia, and Skoda, have a lot going for them. The car looks fine, if a little sharper of edge than Western European designers favour, and is light and airy, the seats comfortable and the feeling one of constant surprise that this really is a Skoda. It has made the progression from awful, tacky, ugly and dangerous, to middling competence — and good value for money.

When the Felicia estate range becomes fully available next year, the Volkswagen influence will be emphasised. Equipment on the GLXi estate model includes adjustable-beam headlamps, front fog lights, height-adjustable seat belts, a 60/40 split rear seat, sunroof, central locking and an internal boot release lever.

SKODA FELICIA

Car: GLXi five-door hatchback.

Engine: 1.3-litre, four-cylinder, eight-valve engine giving 68bhp at 5500rpm driving front wheels through five-speed manual gearbox.

Performance: Top speed 93mph, 0-60mph in 12 seconds.

Economy: 51.4mpg at 56mph, 37.7mpg at 75mph and *38.2mpg urban cycle (Government figures).*

Price: £7,923.

STEERING COLUMN: Ray Cooney (may the farce be with him) talks to **Andrew Pierce**

Peace is doing a runner from the wife

Nobody writes farce like the British — and nobody writes as many as Ray Cooney. The producer and author of *Run for your Wife* and *Move over Mrs Markham*, has written 17 in all. His latest, *Funny Money*, has been at the Playhouse Theatre in London since October. Cooney feels quite at home at the theatre; he bought it from Lord Archer in 1992.

With *Funny Money*, which has all the classic trouser-dropping ingredients, Cooney has won plaudits for acting as well. He stars in it alongside Charlie Drake, Sylvia Syms and Henry McGee.

How did you first learn to drive?

In my father's old Austin when I was 18. He taught me everything I know about driving. My mother said he was the worst driver in the world.

What was your first car?

A clapped-out old van, for which I paid £30 while playing in weekly repertory at Blackburn. *It conked out completely* on the way back to London and cost me £40 to get it towed to the scrapyard.

What car do you drive now and why?

A seven-year-old BMW convertible. I have always loved driving with the hood down and the wind blowing through my hair. The trouble is there is very little for the wind to blow through.

Do you like driving?

Love it. The car is the only place for peace and quiet, provided my wife is not in the passenger seat.

I will leave the house an hour early just to have the extra relaxation. Thoughts swim round in my head. Before I know where I am, I have gone through two red lights and written the next scene of a play.

ADRIAN BROOKS

Ray Cooney and BMW — "the only place for peace and quiet" — outside the Playhouse

What is your most hated car?

Red ones. They are aggressive. Not the drivers, the cars. I must say that: my wife has one.

What is your dream car?

Don't have one. As long as they are comfortable, work and the hood comes down.

What is your worst habit in the car?

The question indicates that one must have several bad habits to choose from. Of course, I am the exception. I am perfect. Everyone else has the bad habits.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Their politeness in the face of my bad habits.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

Having driven since I was 18, I have done most of the unusual things one can imagine. Fortunately, I have never been arrested.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

Once. For going through a red light. I was framed. It was definitely on orange.

What do you listen to in the car?

My wife. I have no choice in this. She complains it is the only time she gets to talk to me as the rest of the time I am writing, producing, acting or directing.

She will override anything on the radio or the tape. Neither the Three Tenors nor the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra stands a chance against her.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Write a farce about an adulterous Secretary of State for Transport. There would be plenty of role models to choose from.

What is your least favourite car advertisement?

I hate them all. I never get the point of any of them. They appear to be advertising trips in the desert, dubious relationships between fathers and daughters or hormone pills for women who wish to throw their husbands out of windows into the swimming pool.

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92K 911 C4 CAB Midnight, Grey Hide 49T
93L 911 CAB TURBO LOOK TIP Blue ...10T
94L 911 COUPE Silver A/C, Black Hide ..22T
94L 911 COUPE Aventura, Grey Hide, A/C .11T
94L 911 COUPE Iris, Grey Hide 10T
94M 911 COUPE TIP Silver, A/C, Black Hide 14T
94M 911 COUPE White, Classic Hide, A/C ..1T
94L 911 COUPE Amaranth, Marble 21T
94L 911 CAB TIP Black Met, Marble 11T
94L 911 TURBO 3.6 Midnight, Marble 2T
94M 911 C4 CPE Aventura, Black Hide 6T
94M 911 RSR Amaranth, Black.............1T
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90G 944 S2 COUPE Titanium 47T
91J 944 S2 COUPE Spts Seats, White .41T
91J 944 S2 COUPE Maritime Blue 46T
91J 944 TURBO COUPE White, A/C ..35T
93K 968 TIP CPE Slate Grey 22T
93L 968 TIP CPE Silver 24T
94L 968 CAB Amazon Green, 17' Alls .26T
94L 968 CAB Guards Red 7T
87D 911 SC COUPE Guards 87T
91J 911 RS Guards 15T
93K 911 3.6 TURBO Midnight Blue 27T
95M 911 TIP & CPE Guards A/C 6T
95M 911 CARRERA 4 COUPE Iris, A/C . 5T
95M 911 CARRERA CAB Aventura 5T
95M 911 CARRERA TIP CAB Midnight A/C .4T
95M 928 GTS AUTO Iris/Black Lthr 7T
89G 928 GT Guards Red, A/C 59T
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mobile 0850 330353
88F 944 S2 COUPE Guards 35T
91H 944 S2 COUPE Stone Grey 44T
94L 968 Sport Iris 24T
94L 968 Sport Guards 18T
94L 968 CAB Black 17T
93K 968 COUPE TIP Black.......28T
89G 911 C4 COUPE Velvet.......45T
91H 911 C2 COUPE Guards Red ..29T
93M 911 COUPE A/C, Silver 8T
92K 911 C2 TGA TIP Guards, A/C .51T
89G 89 Model 911 C2 CAB Slate ..35T
90H 911 C2 CAB Baltic, Hide 49T
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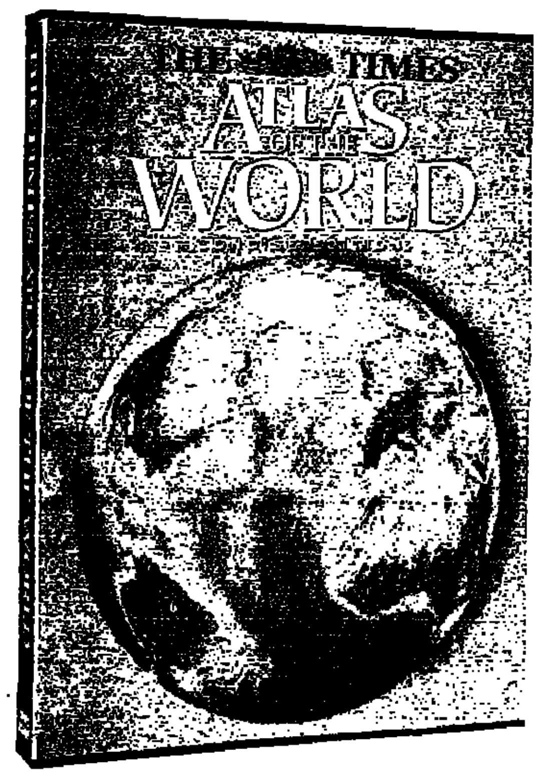

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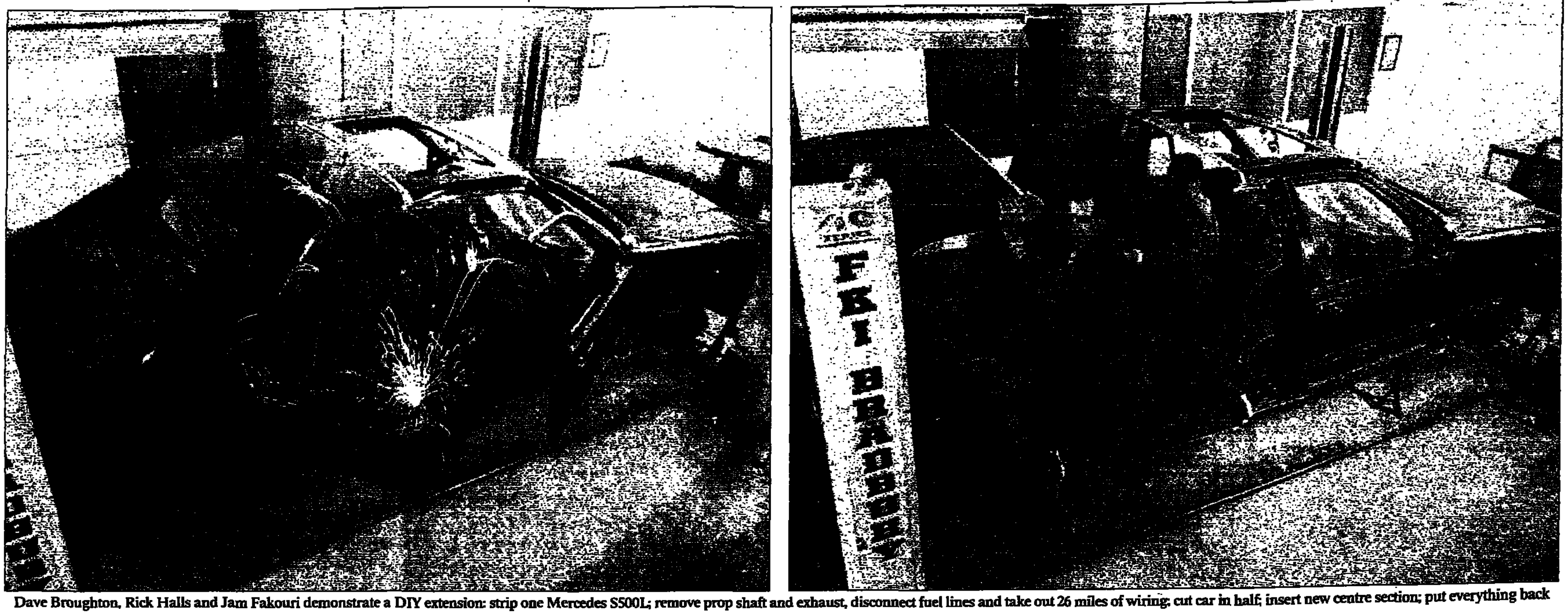

Dave Broughton, Rick Halls and Jam Fakouri demonstrate a DIY extension: strip one Mercedes S500L; remove prop shaft and exhaust, disconnect fuel lines and take out 26 miles of wiring; cut car in half; insert new centre section; put everything back

It's a Mercedes - at a stretch

Dave Selby meets the man who has his work cut out creating a longer limousine for the exclusive customer who demands more than 20 feet

Well over 20ft long, the ultimate in limo-length luxury has a three-pointed star on the bonnet, but it's the Mercedes-Benz you can't yet buy from Mercedes. Or at least it will be very soon, because at the moment it's the back half and the front half of an S500L with a 40in gap in the middle.

Most people would be happy with half the car an S-Class Mercedes is, but for some even a whole one isn't car enough. Trouble is, Mercedes just doesn't make them any bigger yet, although it announced a 20ft 4½in S600 Pullman at the Frankfurt Motor Show.

When the first ones are delivered around next September, they will be hand-built to special order only and come with compulsory armour plating, according to Mercedes UK. There is no list price, but Mercedes UK suggests typical prices between £160,000 and £180,000 depending on equipment levels. However, there are no plans for a right-hand-drive UK version. "We don't really see a market for them in this country," said a Mercedes-Benz UK spokesman.

But Jam Fakouri, head of limousine and chauffeur-driven hire company Dennis Carter Ltd, disagrees. That's one of the reasons he is creating a super-stretched six-door S500L (which shares the bodyshell of the S600L) as the first of 50 coach-built limousines for his own company's use and discerning customers. They won't be armour plated, but Mr Fakouri says: "We can produce them in left- or right-hand drive, longer than the Mercedes version, cheaper and available sooner."

He already claims five customer orders for the £100,000-plus Mercedes from the Middle East and the UK. His hope is that his bespoke six-passenger limousine will recreate something of the style of the gargantuan S600 Pullmans of the Sixties and Seventies, favoured by popes, presidents and pop stars.

"Our limousine will be an inch longer than the Mercedes version and will be available in four- and six-door versions," says Iranian-born Mr Fakouri, whose London-based company runs over 70 limousines ferrying VIPs, businessmen, diplomats and foreign royalty in discreet smoked-glass privacy. What's more his longer limo will be a snip at £100,000 to £110,000.

"We run 18 stretched 500s at the moment, but the newest is 1991 and for us that means they're at the end of their useful life," he says. "There was simply no alternative but to create the cars ourselves on the new S-Class.

"It's a very competitive business, some of our clients are very keen to be driven in the latest model, even though no one knows who's inside. If the chairman of one bank is driven in a new S-Class limousine, others will demand the same treatment. If we're the first and the only ones who can do this, it will give us an edge."

Earlier this month, after eight months of preparation, Dennis Carter subsidiary companies Nigel Cooper Coachworks and Taylormead Engineering in west London mounted a £72,000 V8-engined S500L on a special jig, which supports the bodyshell in eight places. Limousine coach-building specialists David Broughton, 31, and Rick Hall, 30, have been brought in to create the 20ft 5½in limo.

Before the sparks started to fly as the Mercedes was literally sawn in two, the S500L had been stripped, prop shaft and exhaust removed, fuel lines disconnected and miles of wiring taken out. The interior was also braced with frames at the rear and in the middle. "There's so much stress built in at the factory that when you cut the car it would relieve itself of the stress and become weaker unless you build frames to keep it there," explains David Broughton. "But in some ways Mercedes have done the hard part for us by building such a good car in the first place."

Then it's simply a matter of putting it back together, unravelling an estimated 26 miles of wiring, replacing the electronic brains, reconnecting the pneumatically operated central-locking, crafting a complete new roof section, extending the floors and sills, forming sturdy box sections for the inner sills and top counter rail, building new doors and custom glass.

Mr Fakouri, whose recreation revolves around his collection of 30 diminutive bubble cars and microcars, says: "The paramount considerations are complete safety, comfort and reliability. Another is producing the parts and spares that Mercedes don't make. If one of our limousines is dented in London traffic, we can't turn up at an embassy like that." Nigel Cooper Coachworks and Taylormead Engineering are consequently creating moulds for a limited production run of door skins for four- and six-door models of the limousine, along with replacement glass and trim items.

The first new S-Class limousine is due off the Taylormead production line nine to ten weeks after work began. Thereafter they plan an eight-week build time for each one.

And if you're wondering why Mr Fakouri is basing his lavish limousine on the five-litre V8 S500 rather than the V12-engined 6-litre S600, he explains: "The body shape is the same and we want the better economy so that the car begins to pay for itself sooner."

But why not a Rolls-Royce version? "There isn't the demand among our customers," he explains. "They would be embarrassed by the extravagance of a Rolls-Royce and the way it draws attention to itself. A Mercedes is far more discreet." Even a 20-foot one!

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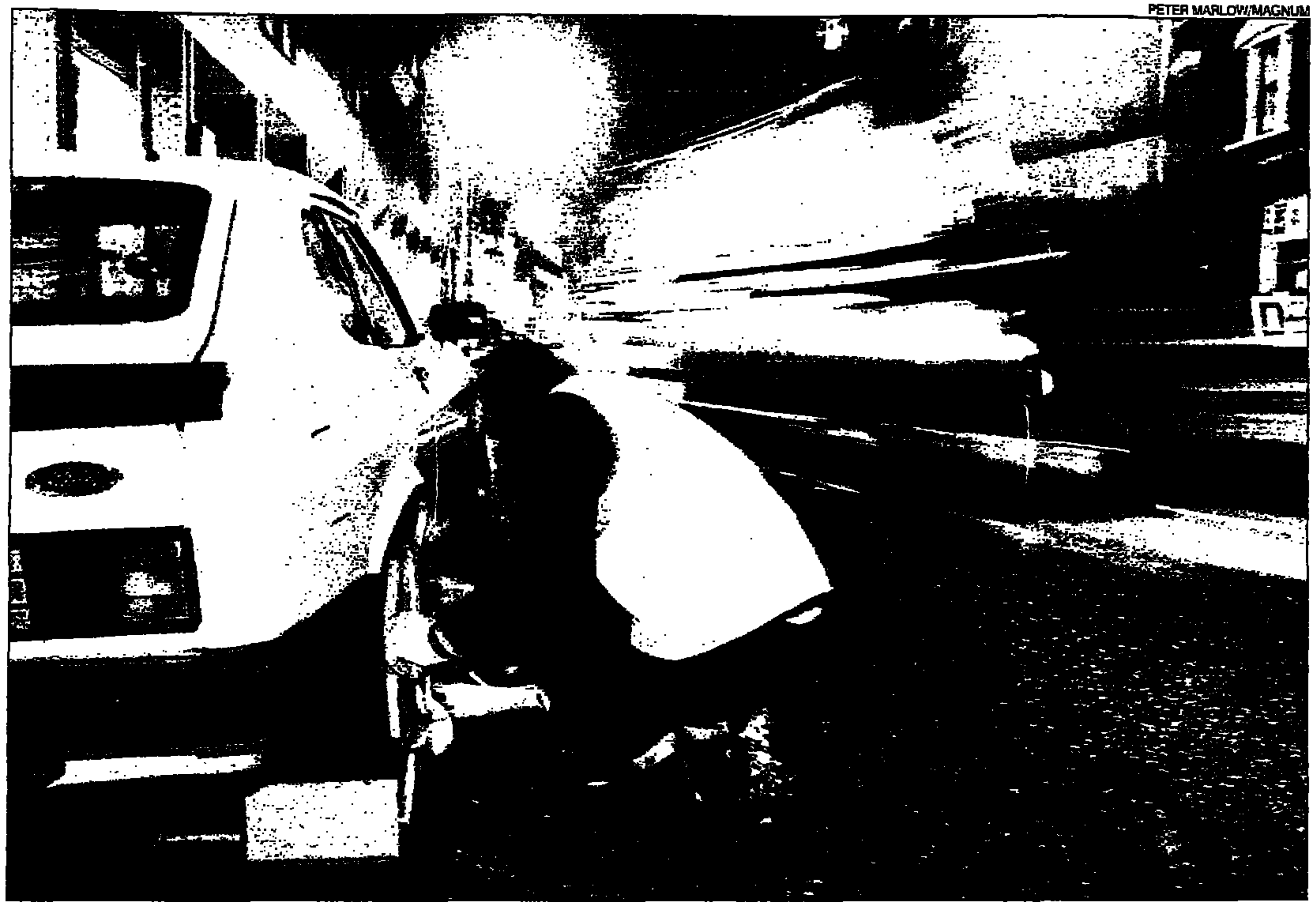
PETER MARLOW/MAGNUM

In the run-up to Christmas, city streets and patches of waste ground have become a paradise for private clamping firms out to make a killing

The early "present" many drivers will receive this Christmas is a wheel clamp, according to motoring organisations monitoring the chaos in city centres as shoppers try to find somewhere to park.

With official car parks full by mid-morning, desperate drivers have been leaving their cars in backstreets and on waste land, only to find them clamped when they return laden with gifts.

Police and the AA say many have been "conned" because yellow lines have faded and unscrupulous private clamping firms have left "decoy" vehicles and obscured warning signs on land where they control the parking. The rogues have been encouraged by a Court of Appeal ruling a fortnight ago that clamping companies have a right to demand money to release cars parked on private land.

"Christmas comes early for the wheel-clamping companies," says Adrian Ruck of the AA. "Some companies employed by councils are overzealous, while some private firms are no more than modern-day highwaymen."

One of the worst cities for clamping is Birmingham, where companies operate on derelict sites on the fringes of the city centre and on a notorious piece of land close to the coach station in Digbeth.

"There are some unscrupulous operators who run essentially bogus companies with a couple of vans, mobile phones and people working long hours to clamp vehicles and make a killing of £70 a time," says solicitor Malcolm Fowler, who is campaigning for them to be outlawed.

"They persuade those in charge of offices and warehouses to let them clamp unauthorised vehicles parked on their forecourts, and also get permission to clamp from the owners of scruffy bits of private land."

Mr Fowler says that on land near the coach station, the cowboys "lie in wait like predators, waiting for people dropping off coach travellers to get the suitcases from the car and cross the road before putting on the clamp".

Many victims complain to the police, who are responsible for enforcing parking regulations in the city but have no control over private land used with the owner's authority, then turn to Mr Fowler.

"I know I shall end up working from home over Christmas and the New Year as motorists come to me for help," he says.

Clampers have also been particularly active in Thames Valley towns in the run-up to Christmas. Michele Clarke of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, found her BMW clamped in a private car park after her ticket had dropped off the inside of the windscreen. The attendant accepted her explanation but still demanded a £50 fee to release the clamp.

"I refused to pay and went to the police station but was told there was nothing they could do," says Miss Clarke. "I was advised, however, to let the air out of my tyre to remove the wheel-clamp."

When a friend started to do this, a row ensued with the attendant, who then demanded £90 to release her car. Miss Clarke was forced to pay up, but her solicitors have taken up the case with the car park owners.

The AA's legal department has received many calls about clampers in Slough, Berkshire, among the thousands it receives every year from motorists who believe they have been clamped unfairly. They include the case of a woman forced to pay £50 plus VAT to free her car on disused land where the owners later said the clamping company had not been authorised to operate.

Both the AA and RAC have called on the Home Office to regulate the clamping companies and end three years of dithering since the department sought their advice on the problem. The organisations want a maximum charge levied for releasing clamped cars and believe the amount should be similar to that imposed by police and local councils. They are demanding greater control over clamping companies, including a requirement to look after vehicles which have been clamped and ensure they are not vandalised.

They also believe landowners must demonstrate they have a problem with "flyparkers" before they can employ clamping companies to clear their land.

Parking is good for business

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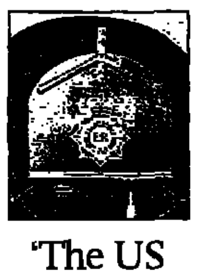

'The US is now our biggest export customer'

We all hate them but we have learnt to live with them. Some of us have kicked them, quite a few of us even buy them. But what may come as a big surprise is that those familiar yellow slabs of steel that guarantee our car remains where we left it until we pay the fine are one of Britain's export successes.

The wheel clamp — or, if you prefer, the Denver Boot — first saw the light of day on the streets of London ten years ago and has slowly spread to other metropolitan areas. Since then, whole industries have grown up centred on the notorious "yellow peril".

In its first year of operation, 26,808 vehicles in the London area were clamped. When private contractors took over in 1987, the figure leapt to 111,032. Something like £35 million has been raised from clamp fines, not including revenue from parking tickets.

But no matter what has been said about clamps, both printable and unprintable, there has proved to be no cheaper or more effective way of ensuring that motorists stay away from forbidden areas.

Lionweld, one of the companies that supplies the Metropolitan police with clamps, has discovered that its product is in demand not only here but also all over the globe. From its Middlesbrough headquarters, it has seen demand for the steel monsters rise and rise.

Now for the final irony. Lionweld is exporting clamps to police forces in its country of origin, the United States. "But not yet Denver," adds Alan Thomas, manager of the company's wheel-lock division. "The US is now our biggest customer, but we also sell clamps to former Communist countries and the Far East."

So why does the United States need to import a product it invented? Selling an invention back to the nation that thought of it in the first place rises well above the coals-to-Newcastle syndrome.

"The American version needs special tools to secure it to the car, such as spanners, whereas our product is simply built around the wheel," says Mr Thomas. "This makes it quicker and easier, which is something US police forces have come to appreciate."

However, the basic design of the clamp has changed very little since it hugged its first wheel. It was originally a security device, — still one of its best marketing sales pitches — and in places such as Kashmir you might still come across one attached to the wheels of the local bigwig's Mercedes. In Britain, meanwhile, they can be found in open car forecourts, outside hospitals, on private roads, in car parks and even motorway service areas.

While motorists think a clamp is a clamp is a clamp, there is more than one model. The ordinary size costs about £55, the hated police version about £225, while clamps to disable HGVs are priced from £350. Being made of steel, they have a long lifespan — and whether you like it or not, it looks as if they are here to stay.

Who knows? One of these days, those people in Middlesbrough might just get a phone call for an order from the representatives of the law in Denver, Colorado.

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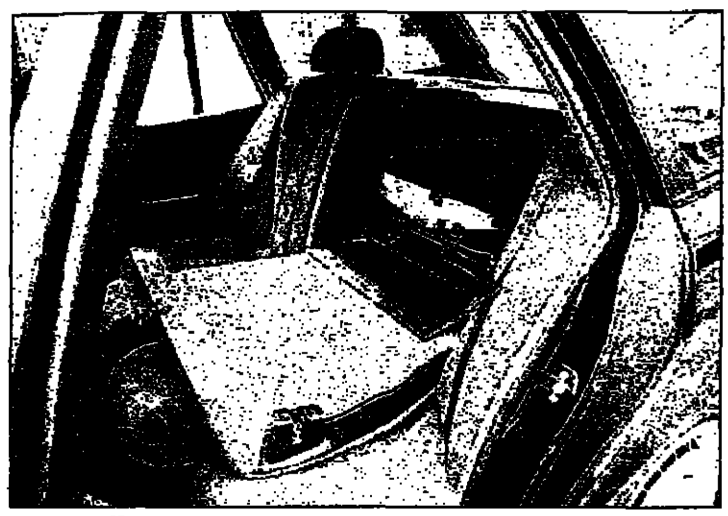
The Chancellor has boosted an alternative fuel, **Tony Lewin** says

Clarke puts his foot on the gas pedal


BMW offer two gas cars, one with a cyclinder stored in the boot

When the Chancellor cut the price of natural gas fuel for cars in his November Budget, it's a fair bet that not many of his audience knew much of the background to the move.

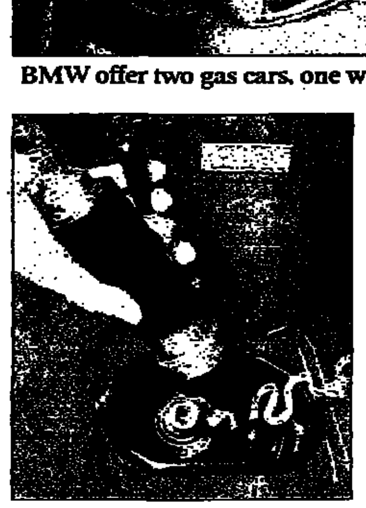
But in highlighting natural gas as an environmentally friendly fuel, Mr Clarke has shown himself to be one step ahead of critics who bemoan the Government's lack of forward-looking green thinking.

There are precious few gas-powered cars in circulation in this country, but in Belgium and the Netherlands there are more, and anyone who has travelled by taxi in Japan will have noticed the large cylinder in the boot. Filled with compressed gas, it lends diesel-like economy to engines designed originally to run on petrol.

Now, natural gas — as opposed to the old LPG or liquefied petroleum gas — has revealed itself as one of the cleanest fuels currently available. Not only does natural gas result in lower emissions of the main pollutants than either petrol or diesel, it produces no benzene or particulates at all — both of these are implicated in health scares — and, what is more, it's cost compares favourably with other fuels.

BMW is the first European manufacturer to bring a natural gas model — or, strictly speaking, two models — into quantity production for general sale. From the beginning of this month, buyers in Germany have been able in return for an additional DM7,000 (£3,200), to opt for dual-fuel versions of either the 316 Compact or the current 518 Touring estate.

The fact that these cars, labelled 316g and 518g, are petrol/gas dual-fuel vehicles gives an immediate clue to both a crucial advantage and a current major handicap of gas power. A huge plus is that gas can be used in standard petrol engines with minimal modifications; the driver can even switch fuels on the move. Yet the reason both fuels are required is equally plain: even in Germany there is not yet an adequate network of gas filling stations to keep the gas driver mobile. In Britain there are no public natural gas filling points at all.


Filling up with compressed gas

While there's nothing on the outside to give away the existence of gas power, inside the Compact 3-series it is all too obvious. The huge, *bullet-proof, fire resistant* (yes, they've tested it) cylinder required to house the compressed natural gas (CNG) fits under a full width cover where the back seat used to be, relegating the Compact to the status of a premium badged van. The 1.6-litre engine gives 102bhp on petrol and 87bhp when the gas button is pressed: the difference is felt more when accelerating than cruising, but under every day conditions the Compact is easy to drive in gas mode.

Overall, the larger 5-series Touring is the more successful. It has a bigger 1.8-litre engine with more power and a sweeter delivery, and with the gas tank mounted behind the rear seats it steals from load bay volume rather than passenger carrying capacity. At almost £29,000 it's decidedly expensive, though BMW calculates that both cars will recoup their extra cost within 60,000 miles. German prices currently peg natural gas at 63p per kilogram, a kilo giving the same energy yield as 1.4 litres of petrol, costing some 99p. The two BMWs' petrol tanks are unaltered, giving the cars an extra 120-150 miles range — a useful bonus in the 518g, but scarce compensation for the sacrifice of the back seats in the 316g Compact.

The company admits freely that these cars are only the first step in its pursuit of the ultimate goal of dream power in the shape of renewable and emissions-free hydrogen. Increasing use of CNG cars will *encourage the growth of a filling* station network, which will in turn allow the introduction of much more satisfactory liquefied natural gas (LNG) vehicles. These can provide ranges of up to 600 miles on a single filling of the deep chilled gas. But more importantly, the technology is exactly the same as for hydrogen — making it a simple step to switch over to the dream fuel once it is economic enough to produce.

As for Britain, the chicken-and-egg situation still applies: no gas pumps, no gas cars; no gas cars, no demand for gas, therefore no gas pumps. At present, 450 of Britain's 500 gas powered vehicles are owned by British Gas. So taking its cue from Mr Clarke, perhaps this privatised utility could set the ball rolling here, too.

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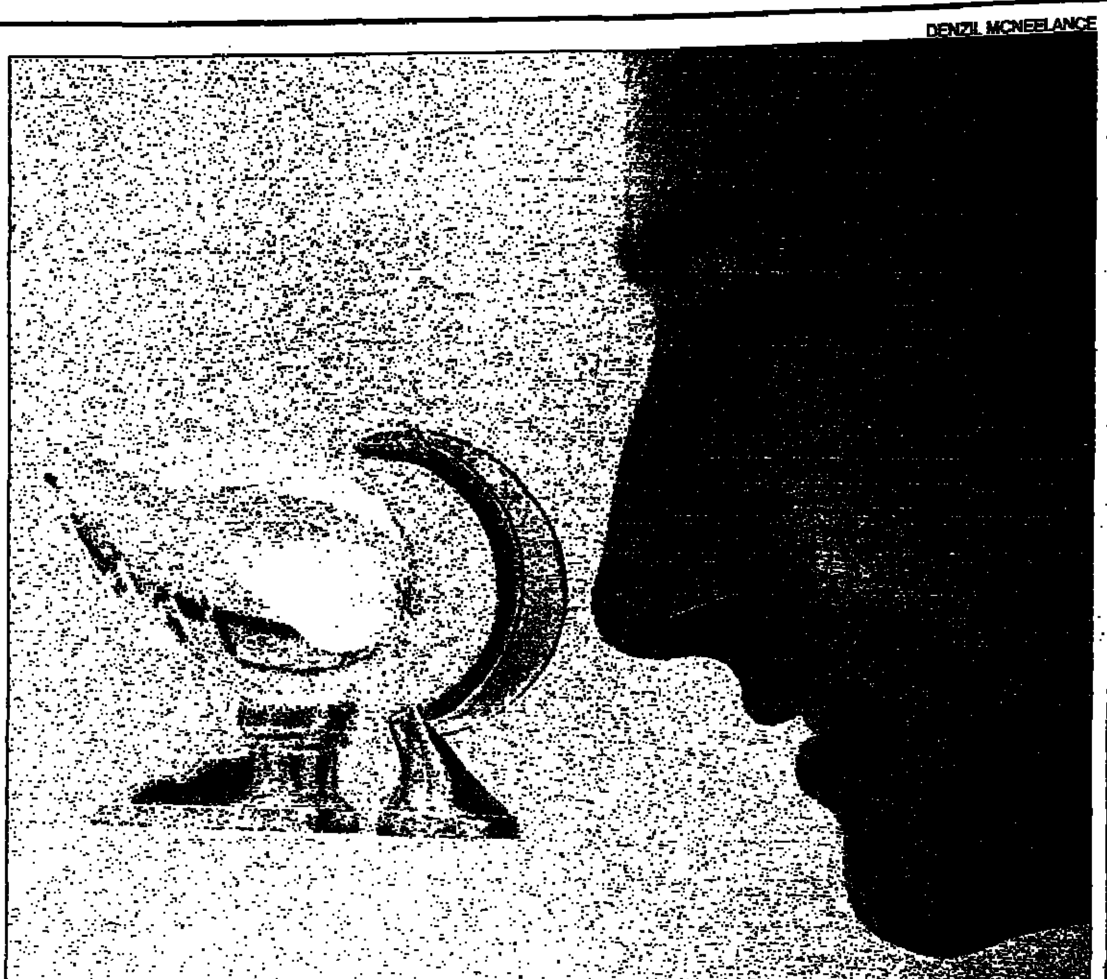
Darren Stokes with his updated design for the Spirit of Ecstasy, which won the £5,000 competition

Rolls-Royce shells out for pearl

Morag Preston meets a winner in ecstasy

A pearl, symbol of wisdom, longevity and power is the key to the sculpture that has won Rolls-Royce's competition to take its radiator mascot into the next century.

Not that the company has any intention to drop the Spirit of Ecstasy, the winged beauty who has adorned the pointed radiator since 1910, when Rolls-Royce first became concerned that wayward *owners were attaching inappropriate* ornaments.

Darren Stokes, aged 28, a first-year student in the ceramics and glass department at the Royal College of Art, was pronounced winner of the £5,000 Spirit of Ecstasy competition last week. "Essence", his winning design, is an oyster-shaped sculpture, 7cm in height, made of transparent glass and silver plate. Lit at its base, the bulb brightens as the car accelerates.

Mr Stokes says: "I used the symbol of an oyster, which sits inside a shell of comfort, as you might describe travelling in a Rolls-Royce motor car. Within the womb-like, glass shape lies the creation of a pearl, a symbol of wisdom, longevity and power."

Rolls-Royce offered the prize to students of the RCA to "get at the people who will be the movers and shakers of the 21st century". Graduates of its design course include several of the world's leading car designers.

To see how the present mascots are manufactured, students visited *the Rolls-Royce Motor Cars factory* at Crewe. Mr Stokes was impressed by the traditional skills of the workers. "Considering the technology available, I couldn't believe that people were still doing so much by hand," he said. "All the people working there were specialised craftsmen but were all very down to earth and proud of what they were doing."

Rolls-Royce stipulated that designs had to be safe and aesthetic. Among the other entries there was a pebble with a hole through it, to reflect the strength and individuality of Rolls-Royce motor cars. Julie Spollen, aged 23, a metalwork and jewellery student, designed a hologram of the Spirit of Ecstasy with a blue and silver hue, set inside a glass dish.

Pascal Lillford, aged 22, a student *in industrial design*, was inspired by the classic English Rose to *symbolise a beautiful English girl*, like the real-life model for the original Spirit of Ecstasy. After every year, the mascot, which is made from porcelain, would be replaced with a young rosebud, which in turn would be replaced by a mature, blooming rose, during the car's annual service.

Sally *Toms's* "*Esther C*" represents a contemporary Spirit of Ecstasy. "Naked women on cars is all a bit 1990s," says Mrs Toms, aged 23, a ceramics and glass student. "Mrs Ecstasy is a simple thing — not flashy or posey. She is just an average woman who works hard from Monday to Friday and does the lottery on Saturday. She's a mother and although her family has left home, the children come around on Thursdays. She believes she is a modern woman, and recently purchased a top-of-the-range food processor."

A thoroughly *modern* Mr Stokes, a former workshop manager at Brighton University, already knows how he will be spending his prize money. "I need a new clutch for my Fiesta 950," he said. "And then there are Christmas presents."

Park and ride can increase traffic, say researchers

PARK-and-ride schemes, hailed as a key weapon in the war against traffic and congestion, can increase rather than reduce the numbers of cars on the road.

The findings, which raise important transport policy questions, have been made by researchers at Oxford University with backing from the Economic and Social Research Council.

Studies of two park-and-ride schemes, one in York and one in Oxford, have found that up to 44 per cent of people using park-and-ride schemes had previously left their cars at home, using public transport for the entire trip from home to the town centre and back.

However, the advent of large edge-of-town car parks allowed them to forsake the poor quality *bus service from outlying areas for* the convenience of the car and a high quality, short, bus trip.

Dr Phil Goodwin of the university's transport studies said yesterday it was clear that using park-and-ride schemes as a "quick fix" to *reduce* traffic levels in and around cities was flawed.

They needed to form part of a "*recipe of measures*" if the goal of cutting transport-related air pollution and traffic levels was to be achieved.

THE RECIPE of measures includes boosting the quality of rail and bus links from outlying areas through more frequent services and bus priority routes on rural and trunk roads. A crackdown on the number of city centre car parks is also vital, said Dr Goodwin.

"One of the unintended consequences of a generally sensible policy is that some people who parked in the centre now use the park-and-ride releasing space on the road network and space at town centre car parks. The space is then taken up by other people who previously did not come at all," he said.

"We certainly do not want to say that park-and-ride schemes are a disaster. But you need a package of measures rather than cherry picking the ones you like, the ones that are cheap or the ones that are politically easy and then expecting things to work."

NICK NUTTALL

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